Disability NOW E1.20 DECEMBER 1995

newspaper
for everyone
with an interest
in disability

winning

The award

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Finally, it's law!

After nearly a year of political wrangling, angry demonstrations and campaigning on all sides, the Government's anti-discrimination legislation for disabled people has reached the statute book.

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) received Royal Assent – the final stage of the formal parliamentary process – on 8 November.

The act will cover discrimination in employment and access to goods, services, transport and education. Goods and services will be overseen by a new National Disability Council (NDC), to be set up in February next year, and employment by the existing National Advisory Committee on the Employment of People with Disabilities (NACEPD).

Minister for Disabled People Alistair Burt welcomed the act as "a fundamental advance for disabled people". It would provide "a foundation upon which we can build to achieve the end of discrimination", he said.

However, disabled people are unlikely to see any concrete changes for the best part of a year. The regulations and codes of practice that will govern how the act is interpreted in the courts and on a day-to-day basis have still to be drawn up.

The NACEPD will publish draft regulations in December, while the NDC will issue its draft regulations in the spring. Then there will be a consultation period, so they will not "go live" before autumn 1996.

The act falls short of what was wanted by many disability organisations and both opposition parties. They want a civil rights bill with wider powers and more enforcement, including a commission that would actively pursue cases of discrimination through the courts.

Tom Clarke, Shadow Minister for Disabled People's Rights, said Labour would be looking to promote a civil rights private member's bill in the new session of Parliament.

Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Liberal Democrats, said: "Issues of justice, equality and rights have been put aside as politicians treat disability as little more than a health issue."

During the final debate, a row blew up as the Government turned down an amendment that would have protected the rights of local authorities to discriminate positively in favour of employing disabled people.

Local authorities had been Continued on page 2



Christmas cheers: budding DN supermodel Anthony Ford, nine, gets into the festive spirit. Find him again on page 15. GRAHAM BOOL

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Anger as Rights Now splits

A split has emerged in Rights Now, the umbrella group that has campaigned against the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and for full civil rights for disabled people.

It happened during the final stages of the DDA on 30 October. Six leading charities published a statement that appeared to back the act.

Mencap, Mind, the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB), the Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID), the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR) and Scope said they had agreed "to work closely with the Government on the implementation of the act".

The statement, issued by the chief executives of the "consortium" through the RNIB's press office, took campaigners, press officers and members of Rights Now by surprise. Many were furious at not being told in advance.

Rachel Hurst, a member of the

British Council of Disabled People (BCODP) and director of Disability Awareness in Action, called for the six to be thrown out. "As far as BCODP is concerned, there is no possible way of continuing under the same banner as these big six."

Labour MP Roger Berry said the statement had played into the Government's hands, but *DN* has learned it was not released to the Conservatives until 6pm on the day of the debate.

The six have issued a second statement reaffirming their commitment to full civil rights.

Richard Brewster, Scope chief executive, conceded there had been "misunderstandings". But he said the original statement referred to implementing the act in terms of providing services, not to campaigning.

"If there is discontent among people in Rights Now, we need to talk about it. Our basic position on civil rights is absolutely no different from what it was."

In a letter to DN, Doug Alker,

chief executive of RNID, said: "It is not tenable to adopt a position of non-compliance with legislation enacted by Parliament.

"Working to improve what is acceptable whilst campaigning to change what is not, seems a sensible way forward", he added.

Bert Massie, director of PADAR wishes to make it clear.

• Bert Massie, director of RADAR, wishes to make it clear that his organisation is not involved in "back-room talks" with Minister for Disabled People Alistair Burt to implement the DDA (DN November). Mr Massie said: "I see this act as merely one step towards the comprehensive legislation which is needed: no more, no less."

DN in the shops!
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nationally in
newsagents and
Sainsbury. Tell your
friends to order a copy.

What's in the DDA?

Employment

- right of non-discrimination, except where a person is "unsuitable"
- duty on employers to make "reasonable adjustments" to work conditions
- employers in listed buildings exempt where there would be damage
- companies of less than 20 exempted, but to be reviewed in five years.
- What's changed: numbers of disabled people in work to be monitored
- employer's opinion no longer sufficient grounds for discrimination
 employers' associations, job agencies and trade unions brought into the act.

Goods, services and access

- right of access, including removal of barriers and provision of aids
- "where reasonable and readily achievable" or an alternative where it is
- "unreasonable" to remove barriers
- insurers to charge higher premiums only where "based on actuarial data or other good reasons"
- all new buses to be low-floor "where... technically feasible", right of access to transport infrastructure, guidance on access for new schools.
 What's changed: Transport accessibility of all public transport now brought in, all taxis to be accessible. Education schools must provide information about access. Discrimination in letting of premises to disabled people outlawed. Information and communication services must provide

Enforcement

access information.

- right to take complaints on employment to an industrial tribunal and on access to goods and services to the county courts
- free advice service to help resolve individual disputes
- new National Disability Council to advise Government.

What's changed: definition of disability widened to include "past" disabilities (such as previous mental health conditions), though an amendment to cover "perceived" disabilities was overturned. People with symptoms of HIV and AIDs brought within the act's remit.

The DDA is published in print, audio, braille and video (signed and subtitled) formats, plus audio and print for people with learning disabilities. Tel: 0171-210 5551. For summary tel: (0345) 622633/textphone 622644.

Have you been discriminated against in goods and services? DN and Scope are researching this area as part of work on the DDA, and are looking for examples to add weight to the report. Write to Jill Stewart, Campaigns (DDA), Scope, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.



Top hole! Graham Salmon, MBE, receives his Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation "People of the Year" award from the Princess Royal in November. Mr Salmon, 42, who won his award for his work in finance, hit the headlines in July after becoming the first blind golfer to score a hole in one. Other disabled winners included artist and author Wendy Barber and fashion designer Betty Jackson.

Finally, it's law!

Continued from page 1

able to do this in the past by arguing they were upping their quotas of disabled employees.

But under the DDA quotas have been scrapped and authorities now risk discriminating against able-bodied people.

Ramini Chelliah, equalities

policy officer at the Local Government Information Unit, said: "There is a point here about sending out a positive signal."

But Bob Mayho, policy officer at the Association of County Councils, said the real impact would be minimal.

Yes, but will it change anything? page 5

Disability **now**

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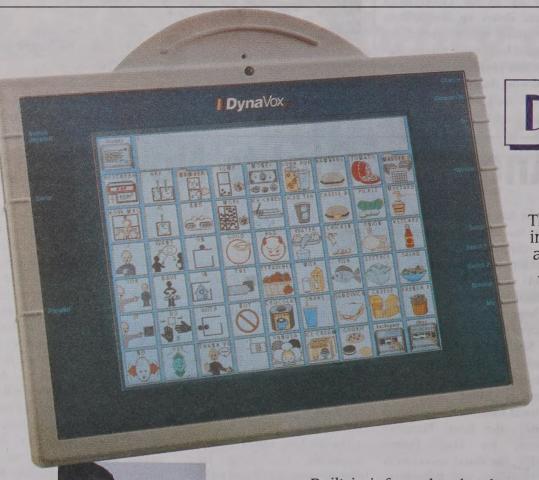
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With love, Santa

Visually impaired children will be able to receive letters in braille, large print or tape from Father Christmas this Christmas, thanks to the Royal National Institute for the Blind. They should write to Santa, c/o PO Box 16, Peterborough PE2 6WS, including their name, address and in what form they would like him to reply. Final posting date is 15 December.

• The Red Cross is warning people to book early for its community care services this Christmas. Because demand is so high, people should contact local branches well ahead to avoid disappointment.

Banking on bottles

Disabled people living in Yorkshire may have to survive on bottled water, if an application by Yorkshire Water (YW) to impose severe water restrictions is successful.

The Department of Environment began a public enquiry in November into the application to cut off water supplies every other day to 200,000 properties in Kirklees and Calderdale.

A YW spokesman said hospitals and hospices would be exempted from the cuts and nursing homes would have large storage tanks installed.

Some disabled people living in their own homes would receive bottled water but could store extra water in their bath, he said.

"The only alternative is to run out of water altogether."

'Mad Cow' call

A father of a teenager who died of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease called in October for an independent inquiry into the condition and its possible link with Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, the socalled "Mad Cow Disease".

David Churchill's 19-yearold son Stephen died of the condition in May. The Department of Health said it had no plans for an inquiry, but would continue to monitor individual cases.

What's in DN next month?

- * Detox with DN. Been too festive? We can chill you out
- * Euthanasia: a doctor gives us his perspective
- * Holiday special: dream destinations for the new year

plus all the best in news, views, jobs and the Accessability Awards results

Centre's future in doubt

The future of a recording and brailling centre for blind people hung in the balance as DN went to press.

The centre, in Leeds, is jointly funded by the University of Leeds and the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB), which says it can no longer afford to pay the five staff.

RNIB has reported losses of £500,000, blaming the effect of the Lottery (DN October).

The centre provides material

The In Touch Handbook will

be closed down on 21 Novem-

ber unless £50,000 can be raised

All other publications on

visual impairment from BBC In

Relieves: Back and chest problems

Hiatus hernia

Arthritic pain.

by Christmas.

Handbook shutdown threat

for students and staff at the university and also nationally.

Staff say they were told they would lose their jobs on the 31 December and have launched a campaign to save the centre.

At a public meeting November, the university said it would fund two posts to allow the service to continue for its own students and staff.

DN understands the RNIB is also willing to provide some cash and hopes the centre can

Touch Publications in Cardiff

The threat comes from a lack

of funding and because BBC

staff are unable to produce it in

their spare time like they used to.

also face an uncertain future.

continue in its national network.

"The university and the RNIB are exploring what they can do jointly to continue a centre," said Dr David Robinson, university registrar. He could not say what level of service it would provide.

"We are committed to campaign to preserve the level of service we have now," said centre boss, Andy Myers.

It is hoped a decision will be announced on 7 December.

Could it be you?

The National Lottery Charities Board will hand out its second round of grants on 20 November. In the first round in October, the board handed out £40 million to 627 charities.



Catch the bus: Edinburgh District Council and the Lothian Coalition of Disabled People are running a series of hard-hitting poster advertisements on buses in the city. The campaign will coincide with the International Week for People with Disabilities from 27 November to 3 December.

Awards snub travel agents

In this year's Holiday Care Awards to honour places and staff that take disabled tourists seriously, one category went unfilled: best travel agent.

"The retail sector has a long way to go to provide the sort of service disabled people need and indeed deserve," warned tv personality Judith Chalmers, vice-chairman of the Holiday Care Service.

She blamed tight margins and lack of time among travel agents, and major tour operators who have no clearly defined packages for disabled people.

Now the Disability Discrimination Act is law, "the major retail chains will have to sharpen up their act".

She found it "a mystery" that so many organisations with excellent facilities hide the information in their literature or omit it altogether. She pleaded with them to change.

Mount Royal Hotel, London, where the awards were held, won best hotel accommodation of 20 beds and over, while Strathwhillan House, Isle of Arran, was the best hotel with under 20 bedrooms.

Quarry Bank Mill in Styal, Cheshire was the best attraction. Other awards included Scope's Thorngrove Camping and Caravanning Park, Gillingham, and the National Trust, currently in its centenary year.

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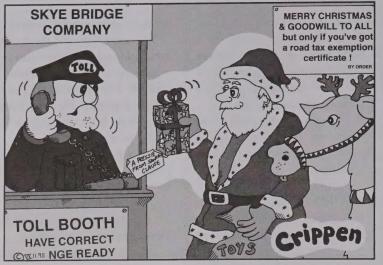
The Scottish Office has written to the company that operates the new bridge to Skye asking why only some disabled drivers are allowed to travel across it

Disabled drivers who are exempt from vehicle excise duty because they get the higher mobility component of Disability Living Allowance can cross for free.

But other orange badge holdhave to pay the full toll. This is despite the fact that all holders are exempt on the Erskine, Forth, Severn and Tay bridges.

Now Scottish transport minister Lord James Douglas-Hamilton wants to know why, especially as the concession is allowed for in the Skye Bridge Crossing Toll Order.

"His letter is with the board of Skye Bridge Ltd and they are going to be discussing it," said a



'Boss, I'm at gate two - there's an old geezer here who wants to know if we take payment in kind?'

company spokesperson.

Regular bridge users get a "frequent users toll" which is less than half the full fair.

"Many people within the area can still get a 50 per cent discount," said bridge manager Russell Thomson.

A Commons' early day motion put down by Labour MPs Frank Cook and Calum MacDonald "deplored" the company's actions. Orange badge holders enjoyed a 50 per cent concession on the previous ferry service, it said.

MoD 'torpor' on Gulf War syndrome attacked

The Ministry of Defence (MoD), has been accused of "scepticism, defensiveness and general torpor" over its handling of research into the disabling Gulf War syndrome.

The House of Commons allparty Defence Select Committee, in a report published in November, praised the Government for setting up a medical assessment programme, but crit-

icised it for initially appointing just one part-time consultant.

The committee accepted that neither the UK or USA governments had found any evidence for the existence of a single disease linked to service in the Gulf.

But it revealed that France, whose troops did not receive immunisation against chemical or biological weapons (treatments seen as possible causes of

the syndrome), had no recorded cases of Gulf War syndrome.

It also compared the UK government's handling of the issue with the "compassion displayed by the US government".

"Our troops risked their lives for our country but all the MoD has done is sweep this issue under the carpet," said Shadow Defence Secretary Dr David Clark.

care payments

The Government is to bring in legislation to allow disabled people to buy their own community care.

legislation, Under the announced in the Queen's Speech on 15 November, local authorities will be granted powers to give cash directly to disabled people. This means they will be able to buy their own care packages.

Jane Campbell, former chairperson of the British Council of Disabled People, who has been campaigning on the issue, said she was "thrilled" at the news.

"It is full steam ahead. On this the Government really seems quite positive.

"This will be another option that fits in with our philosphy of independent living that is designed by disabled people."

But she was concerned over the detail of the bill, such as who would be eligible and what safeguards there would be.

In the Commons' debate after the speech, Prime Minister John Major said: "Fate has robbed our fellow citizens who are disabled of a great deal. Governments should not rob them of choice."

Labour leader Tony Blair, who failed to mention the new bill, called the Queen's Speech "utterly irrelevant to the interests of Britain".

The Government was "cobbling together any old bric-abrac of legislation that can keep the Conservative Party in one piece", he added.

Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown attacked the speech for missing the opportunity to bring in a civil rights bill.

Other legislation announced included a bill to curb immigration and the benefit rights of asylum seekers. This has been condemned by Disability Alliance, which argues that many asylum seekers are disabled as a result of torture and civil war.

Also included was a bill to extend the right to buy for housing association tenants and another to introduce a nursery voucher scheme for parents of four-year-olds - though this has a flat limit of £1,100 whatever level of provision may be needed.

People will also have more power to complain about hospitals, opticians, dentists, pharmacists and GPs, a subject DN investigated earlier this year. For the first time, clinicial complaints will be dealt with directly by the Health Service Ombudsman.

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New shadow

Gordon McMaster (right), MP for Paisley South, has been appointed deputy Shadow Minister for Dis-



abled People's Rights. A former Labour whip and secretary of the All-Party Disablement Group, he replaces Robin Corbett.

The Commons' Social Security Select Committee has called for changes in the way the Government's controversial Compensation Recovery Unit is run.

It recommended in October that only benefits equal to loss of earnings should be clawed back after a settlement. The Government is to consult on the plans.

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January: two bills are launched, but only one will survive

Concessions on taxis

All black cabs will have to be made accessible to disabled people, said Transport Minister Steven Norris in February No date for compliance has yet been fixed. It will be agreed when the Disability Discrimination of the Autonal February Charles and Charles a

April: first concessions agreed, on accessible cabs and housing

CAB p	olicing	plan sc	rap
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June: CABs pull out of plan to police the Government's bill

Lords' triple blow to Government

July: Lords wins more concessions, though some are later lost



November: new minister Alistair Burt talks of a "clean slate"

Yes, but will it change anything?

Nic Paton investigates what the new Disability Discrimination Act will actually mean for disabled people

After the victory of El Alamein in the Second World War, Winston Churchill said: "This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

The same might be said of the new Disability Discrimination Act. It has now gone through Parliament (*see above*), yet we are a year away from anything being implemented, and still far from a society where disabled people are not discriminated against.

So, what will change and how will the act affect disabled people in their everyday lives?

Caroline Gooding, legal officer at the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, believes the secondary regulations that will be drawn up with the National Disability Council, disability groups, employers and service providers will be vital.

These will guide interested parties – and the courts – on who is covered, how the law works, what is bad and good practice and what you must do to avoid falling foul of the act.

Ms Gooding is particularly concerned about how long employers or service providers will have to make "reasonable adjustments" to their premises – expected to be ten years – and the "cost cap", or limit of what they must spend.

"If you do not really have to make a reasonable adjustment for the next ten years, people will see very little change on the ground. Partly it is a question of whether anyone knows the act has been passed."

Employment

The first raft of regulations, expected to come into force by autumn 1996, will be on employment. Susan Scott-Parker, director of the Employers' Forum on Disability, believes the act will be welcomed by many employers and a spur to action.

"It is not so much what they need to do to comply with the legislation, but that they will start to see the wisdom of delivering better practice."

But it will probably not help disabled people who are out of work to get jobs. In all but the most clear cut cases, it will still be almost impossible to prove discrimination in an interview or job application situation. The act also currently exempts employers with under 20 staff. London architect Chris Harrowell, who is hearing impaired, sees this as a flaw. In his profession, many firms employ fewer than 20 people.

"Small firms are a growth area of the economy, whereas big firms are shrinking."

Where the act will help, argues Susan Scott-Parker, is in "retention" cases. This is where an employee becomes disabled and is then discriminated against. In the United States, 80 per cent of employment cases under the Americans With Disabilities Act have been about this.

The act will become clearer as

Sarah Langton-Lockton, chief executive of the Centre for Accessible Environments, believes the act will help here.

Part M of the building regulations and Shopmobility schemes have already done the ground work in raising awareness, as has the Arts Council's stipulation that its National Lottery cash must be tied to access.

The act will be an impetus, and many service providers will want to get on with improving access within ten years, she argues.

Transport

It will be illegal for public transport to be inaccessible, but, again, only within a "reasonwheelchair users, he argues.

"I do not think anyone pretended that it was going to act as an immediate panacea."

Education

Schools and colleges will have to report on their accessibility and what improvements they are making, but again improvements will only need to be made within a "reasonable" cost timescale, to be decided case by case.

Linda Shaw, co-director of the Centre for Studies on Integration in Education, says this will make education more accountable, but disabled children could still be forced into special schools.

Insurance

Will the act make getting insurance any easier or cheaper? Insurers will no longer be able to discriminate on grounds of disability, but will still be able to charge more to people who are "a health risk".

"Conditions that people recognise as being disabling will still be perceived as potential health risks," says Pauline Thompson of the Disablement Income Group.

Enforcement

Enforcement is seen as the weakest part of the act. With no national disability commission to pursue cases, the onus will be on individuals or groups to act.

In employment, your option – going to an industrial tribunal – is clear cut. For discrimination in access to goods and services, it is less clear.

Currently, the only option with any teeth will be to drag discriminators through the courts, a process that is likely to deter most individuals.

Caroline Gooding argues that disabled people will need to rely on local groups using the act "as a lever", either through court action or simply through the press and local campaigns.

The key will be not so much what the DDA offers, as what it stands for, says Sarah Langton-Lockton. "For disabled people it has got to be positive, because it brings something fundamental within the remit of the law."

The question for MPs, activists, employers, service providers and, fundamentally, disabled people, will be, is that enough?



Direct Action Network mounts a last-ditch protest in November

time goes on, through codes of practice and test-case tribunals, but she believes a proper dispute mediator is still needed.

"In the absence of a central authoritative body behind it [the act], we need to make sure the advice going out is consistent."

Access

Of course, a job is all fair and well, but what if you can't get into the building – or cinema, theatre, shop, restaurant, pub?

able" timescale, such as when vehicles need renewing.

This could potentially mean a 30-year wait for buses and considerably longer for trains or underground networks.

Douglas Campbell, chief executive of the Disabled Drivers' Association, believes the first changes will be seen in more taxis being made accessible.

However, designers will need to take on board the needs of all disabled people, not just



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South African MPs back rights

Mary McCollum reports

Disability rights have reached South Africa's statute books for the first time.

The Labour Relations Act, which was passed by Parliament in October, defines unfair labour practice and covers every aspect of employment. This includes job applications, unfair dismissal and procedures to protect a disabled person's employment rights while in a job.

South Africa's first disabled MP, Maria Rantho, has been instrumental in getting the bill through.

The issue of employment rights is particularly important to her. At the age of 24, she frac-

tured her spine as a result of a car accident and was forced to give up her job as a nurse.

"That's when I encountered the racial discrimination of South Africa's nursing association. As a black nurse, once I was disabled, I was forced to resign," she said.

"This law is a fundamental break through that wasn't there in the past."

Ms Rantho was elected in February this year, having persuaded the African National Congress to list her as a parliamentary candidate.

"They had to understand that if there were no disabled people advocating for us in Parliament



Maria Rantho: instrumental PADDY DONNELLY/CAFOD

that we were going to be marginalised."

She was deputy chair of the campaigning group Disabled People of South Africa (DPSA), which is funded by the London-based aid agency CAFOD.

DPSA negotiated with the

Government following the April 1994 elections to get disability included in a Bill of Rights.

Ms Rantho advises cabinet ministers on disability and how it relates to transport, housing, new technology and employment. She is also lobbying to have sign language recognised as an official language.

"No other country in the world is going through what we are going through. South Africa is busy reconstructing itself in every possible way, repealing old laws and replacing them with new laws and just policies.

"My role is to make sure that disability is taken up at each step," she said.

Shooting reveals 'deaf mafia'

The killing of the head of Moscow's Association for the Deaf has revealed the existence of a Russian "deaf mafia".

According to an investigation by *The Observer*, the shooting of Igor Abramov in his Moscow apartment in September has shown how deaf people are becoming involved in Moscow's criminal underworld.

In the old Soviet Union, the estimated 12 million deaf and hard of hearing people were guaranteed employment, but no more. Adapted telephones are now unaffordable and hearing aids often breakdown.

But companies with at least a 70 per cent disabled workforce are exempt from VAT and customs duties on imports and exports.

Police investigating the murder believe Mr Abramov was allowing businesses to use his companies — which had the required quota of disabled employees — as cover for their own operations, so benefiting from the exemptions. In return Mr Abramov took a share of the profits.

It is believed Mr Abramov fell foul of one of his associates who then hired an assassin to kill him.

• The Down's Heart Group is launching an appeal to bring a Russian girl with a serious heart condition to London. 13-month-old Jasmina Jushkina was refused treatment in Moscow because she has Down's syndrome. The association needs to raise £15,000.

Donations can be sent to Jasmina Jushkina Appeal, c/o The Down's Heart Group, 17 Cantilupe Close, Eaton Bray, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU6 2EA.

Top of the form

A college for visually impaired people was praised by the Further Education Funding Council in October.

Dorton College of Further Education in Seal, Kent, is owned and managed by the Royal London Society for the Blind. It provides residential education for 55 students.

The inspectors' report praised the achievements of students and the college's management, good use of resources and partnership with other colleges.

"Students express high levels of satisfaction with the provision. They receive individual attention in an establishment which values and respects them," it said.



Votes for homes: tenant Jenny Estermann joined Lord Ashley and Habinteg housing association deputy chair Lady Barbara Bossom at the opening of London's first "barrier free" housing scheme in October. It combines bungalows for wheelchair users with accessible homes for families and single people. ANDREW TESTA

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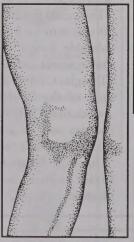
The primary function of the brace is to align or straighten the limb, which may have deformed to a bow or knock knee position, due to weakness of the joint. This is usually caused by an arthritic condition, resulting in pain or undue aching when standing or walking. The brace gives full freedom of leg movement and in many cases helps with hyperextention, where the knee allows the leg to bend to the rear.



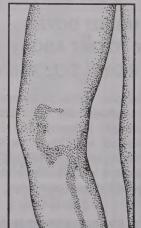


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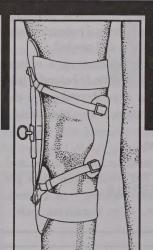
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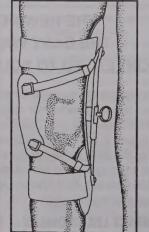
Knock Knee (Valgus) Before



Bow Leg (Varus) Before



Knock Knee (Valgus) After



Bow Leg (Varus) After

The second

Disability day in December

The 1995 International Day of Disabled Persons will take place on 3 December.

Events around the UK include a forum in Glasgow, a fun day across Derbyshire and workshops in Orpington, Kent.

In London local authorities will fly flags and hold numerous other activities.

Events further afield include a march in Zimbabwe, media events in Germany, a conference in Sri Lanka and the publication of an access guide in Taiwan.

For further information contact Disability Awareness in Action, tel: 0171-834 0477.



Stephanie Cole, of tv's Waiting for God, with Ade Ekunsumi, 12, (left), and David Monid, 11, opened a unit for autistic children at Spa School, Bermondsey in October. The £60,000 unit will cater for eight pupils.

Threat to free travel

Free train travel for disabled and elderly people in London could be under threat because local authorities are unable to agree how the scheme might work next year.

London's 33 councils are required by law to fund a concession for elderly and disabled people to travel free on buses and tubes in the capital. This was extended to take in British Rail (BR) in April.

The terms for renewing the scheme – or how much councils will pay – were supposed to be agreed by 30 September. But as *DN* went to press five councils had still not agreed and one, Wandsworth in south-west London, had rejected the proposals.

Wandsworth Council had criticised the committee of the London Accessible Transport Unit (LATU), which runs the concessionary scheme, for investing £10 million in Barings bank before it collapsed.

It opposed the introduction of any new funding arrangements until a full inquiry is completed.

The councils have a final deadline of 31 December to make up their minds, but, according to Alistair Beattie of the Travel Permit Working Party, they are playing a dangerous game.

"If London Transport thinks there is not going to be an agreement, it can implement the reserve scheme at any time." This would still force councils to allow disabled and elderly people to travel free on buses and tubes, but would not necessarily cover BR or the Docklands Light Railway and might only start at 9.30am instead of 9am.

"We have been urging the boroughs to act positively," he said. The working party is sending letters to MPs to raise awareness of the issue.

The next councils' meeting is on 15 December.

A spokesperson for LATU said the councils were being "very cautious".

The other five councils are Greenwich, Hammersmith & Fulham, Newham, Kensington & Chelsea, and Westminster.

DaRT still in crisis

The Dial-a-Ride and taxicard charity DaRT could run out of money in January, despite having its grant renewed by its main funding body.

The charity has been beset by problems since the summer, when four of its five staff were sacked. In October, the four were reinstated with an apology and DaRT's acting chair, acting vice-chair and treasurer all resigned (*DN November*).

Following its annual general meeting in October, officials from the London Borough Grants Unit (LBGU), which funds DaRT to the tune of £143,000, agreed to reinstate funding until the end of the year.

But it refused to renew longterm funding, issuing a "stern warning" that money for 1996/97 would not be released "unless significant improvements have been made". More importantly for DaRT's

short-term future, the final money for 1995/96 will not be released until after LBGU's first meeting of 1996. As this takes place in February, DaRT faces having no money at all in January. DaRT public relations officer Diane Lea said: "It is another punishment. We have done everything they asked us to do, but we are still going to have this very dodgy time."

Fed up with poor packaging? Scope wants to hear from you! What products drive you wild? Call Abigail Bennett on 0171-636 5020.

DaRT still | Low-floor buses make business sense

Richard Armitage reports on two accessible transport shows

You wait for ages and two come along – the biggest bus and coach show for years at the National Exhibition Centre (NEC) Birmingham and the Community Transport Association's (CTA) annual exhibition in Blackpool.

Coach & Bus 95 at the NEC, organised by the Confederation of Passenger Transport, got off to a lively start after a protest by Direct Action Network about inacessible buses on show.

Inside, though, it was clear that manufacturers are committed to

the step-free, low-floor bus and prices are at last coming down. If an operator accepts that accessible buses increase revenue because more people can get on and off, then the low-floor bus becomes a better investment than traditional single-deckers.

Key new vehicles were the smaller minibus from Marshall of Cambridge, which came in at "just above" £60,000, a low-floor version of the successful Pointer from Plaxtons of Scarborough, and Optare of Leeds' attractive Excel low-floor bus, at £80,000.

The CTA's exhibition also introduced many new products:



Not on the buses: 100 Direct Action Network protestors brought Birmingham to a halt

CHRIS KILLIC

the TBP and Marshall step-free entrance vehicles were at the show for the first time, and passenger lift manufacturers Ratcliff and PLS showed new models. Signal Computing showed off a vehicle-tracking kit currently on trial with Camden Community Transport. The CTA also launched a revamped version of its Minibus Safety Charter.

The timing of these events could not have been better. If the Government is inclined to be faint-hearted when writing the transport regulations for the Disability Discrimination Act, it should think again.

Mobility with more style per gallon

ff to Ascot, Henley, or Sainsbury's, the Constables Peugeot 806 gives you that extra special something. Sophistication – it's not a word one usually associates with mobility vehicles, then you haven't seen what the 806 gives you. Although the 806 looks nothing like a mobility vehicle, this spacious people carrier can be equipped to hold a wheelchair in the front. Fully loaded she'll take up to six people in perfect comfort. Constables new 806 offers standard or adaptations to suit your need. Electric windows and front seat airbags come as standard. So does the power steering. But there are options too. Take your pick from air conditioning, eight-speaker wraparound sound system and CD player. ABS braking will bring you to the safest halt possible,

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Scope plans to end deficits

Scope (formerly The Spastics Society) must stop living beyond its means if it is to survive. A new review shows which way the charity should be going.

This was the message of Scope's 43rd AGM in November. Hon treasurer Jan Hildreth reported that Scope finished

reported that Scope finished 1994-5 with an operating deficit of almost £2 million on a turnover of nearly £78 million.

The costs of the name change were not offset by increased new income, as was hoped. In fact, the fundraising surplus fell by £800,000. He thought this reflected the continuing recession, growing competition, the name change and probably losses to the national lottery.

Scope could not go on using its reserves, now down to half what they were five years ago, for housekeeping.

"To restore Scope to health we have got to learn to live within our means. We've got to start achieving, and not just budgeting, for surpluses. We must concentrate our money and people where they do the most good."

He referred to a new review of the charity as "the most professional and potentially effective work that I've ever seen in my time with Scope." He had "great confidence" in the ability of the senior management team.

Chief executive Richard Brewster said how difficult it was to cut any services. "What's become clear is how much more dependent people become on a help organisation like ours as more and more pressure is put on resources."

But he argued Scope must change the way it plans and runs itself, hence the review.

Review offers new way forward

John Tizard, review co-ordinator, writes:

Six months ago the Scope Review 1995 was launched to secure a long-term future for Scope and stabilise its finances.

A team of six senior managers interviewed 115 managers, considered internal and external reports on the quality and effectiveness of services and analysed the environment in which Scope operates. Its information



Teddy bears' picnic? David Clark, 3, and Dame Vera Lynn meet antique teddy bears belonging to Frances Fagan (*right*). Frances and Peter Fagan of Colour Box Miniatures have given £10,000 to the Dame Vera Lynn School for Parents at Scope's Ingfield Manor School, Sussex.

filled 60 box files and the report runs to several hundred pages.

Successes

The review found much to celebrate. The name change a year ago was the most cited achievement, not only the name, but its role in providing a strong, unifying purpose for staff, volunteers and people with disabilities.

Scope and its 230 local groups are in contact with over 25,000 people with disabilities a year. Through the Living Options programme, over 250 people have moved into the community. The Peto UK assessment service has opened in London. The School for Parents national network reaches 1,500 families. Scope's campaigning has led to major successes.

The review found Scope to be a complex organisation with 250 separate activities and over 70 types of activities directly benefiting disabled people or their families. It showed how fundraising income is used to support these activities.

Problems

It also showed that Scope has had an operating deficit for 18 of the last 20 years and it has sold assets to finance deficits — though its net worth has remained constant in real terms.

Its voluntary fundraising has fallen and fees for services purchased from local authorities often do not cover the real costs.

Some services are no longer suitable because buildings or users' needs are changing.

Answers

As a result of the review, the Executive Council has agreed a plan.

The main aims are: empowerment of people with disabilities; putting Scope's voluntary local groups at the centre of all it does; addressing local needs; ensuring the quality and financial health of its services, and creating a surplus.

Scope will develop a strategic approach to decision making with a well informed executive council and accountable managers. It will develop user-led local arrangements.

A new division will be responsible for services provided on contract, and another will set up local partnership teams to assess and provide for local needs, including research, campaigning and information, which will in turn influence national activity.

Management responsibilities will be clear. Directors will be concerned with strategy, policy and advising trustees; service managers will operate their services, and there will be a middle management team of assistant directors and departmental heads.

The changes, to be introduced gradually, will shape Scope to meet the millenium.

In brief

DN commendation

Disability Now has been highly commended in Scope's first Quality Awards. DN was commended for "empowering people through providing information and news".

Winners were the mobility assistants at the Personal Development Project, Hensol Unit, Mid Glamorgan, and the volunteer group at The Cwmbran Skills Development Centre, Cwmbran, Gwent.

Others highly commended were Chris Richfield at Company Secretary's Office, the Rotherham day service staff, David Hayes of York and District Cerebral Palsy, the volunteers at Mold Shop and Mike Byrom, Glynn Vernon's enabler.

Rural carers ignored

Carers' views are being ignored, a study into the needs of families in rural areas of north Warwickshire has found. The report was funded by Scope, in conjunction with North Warwickshire Council for Voluntary Service.

Most carers identified a lack of information, and said concerns and questions were often brushed aside by professionals.

Caring for children with disabilities: the experiences and needs of families in north Warwickshire. £2.50, north Warwickshire Council for Voluntary Service, tel (01827) 718080.

Calling asthma artists!

People with asthma can take part in an international art competition. The theme will be explain life with asthma to the general public. For entry forms contact Nicole Bettelley, Burson-Martseller, 24-28 Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2PX. Closing date 31 January, 1996.

Stammerers campaign

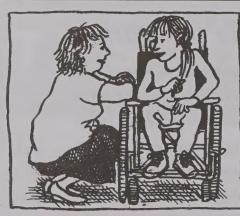
An information sheet for employers on the disabling effects of stammering has been issued by the British Stammering Association (BSA). The BSA says stammerers make up one per cent of the working population. The campaign is backed by British Aerospace, which has a launched programme to help employees who stammer.

Corrections

From DN's November issue: Kirton Healthcare's new commode should have been the Kiira.

The Wheelchair Corporation's all-terrain battery-powered vehicle should have been Delta-4. There is only seating for the driver. Securon is the trade name for the harness.

Have you got what it takes?



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For further information and informal enquiries please contact Soulla Blagrove on 0181 975 9700 ext 1448/1458. Or write to Over 11's Team, Family Placements, Housing and Social Services, Grosvenor House, 27 The Broadway, Crouch End, London N8 8DU.

We welcome applicants from all different backgrounds, religions and ethnicities.

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Haringey is working towards becoming an equal opportunities employer"

Car firms told 'clean up act'

The Government has pledged to force car and oil manufacturers to clean up their act after accepting evidence that dust from car exhausts can hasten up to 25 deaths a day.

Research shows that particles of less than 10 millionths of a metre across (PM10s) aggravate asthma and heart conditions.

The Government had previously encouraged the use of diesel cars, the main source of PM10s because they produce less carbon dioxide.

Three separate reports vary in their estimates of the number of deaths caused every year by PM10s from 2,000 to 10,000 in Britain. The Government is likely to accept the recommendations of all three.

One of them, by the Government's Expert Panel on Air Quality Standards, says a standard should be set at 50 parts per billion per day, a level often exceeded in the UK.

However, the World Health Organisation recently said that there was no safe level for PM10s. Letts, National Melinda Asthma Campaign chief execu-



Doran Scotson lets it all go to his head in a high-pressure oxygen chamber

ANNA BROWN

tive called for "long-term practical measures, not short-term technical fixes. It is worth remembering that diesel was once thought to be the safe fuel for the future."

Oxygen is on the up

A high-pressure oxygen treatment used by deep sea divers with the bends is helping people with cerebral palsy, brain damage or spinal injuries.

Hyperbaric oxygenisation therapy (HBT) has already helped people who have had strokes. Now Dr Philip James of the University of Dundee has carried out a pilot study on children with cp.

"If the brain is injured, some of the damaged tissue is not dead, it is sleeping," he said. In effect, he wakes it up again. Up to 40 sessions of HBT are needed to repair damaged tissue and blood vessels. The treatment works best when combined with exercises, he said.

"This is a historic breakthrough," said Linda Scotson, of the Hyperbaric Oxygen Trust (HOT). Her son Doran, 17, has cp and benefited from the treatment.

But there are only nine chambers available on the NHS. Each one costs £50,000.

Send a SAE to Linda Scotson, HOT, Ryton House, Primrose Lane, Forest Row, East Sussex RH18 5LT.

Epilepsy's new image

The world's first Magnetic Resonance Imaging unit (MRI) dedicated to epilepsy has opened at the National Society for Epilepsy's Chalfont Centre in Buckinghamshire.

It gives detailed pictures of the brain and will be part of a national scanning programme and assessment service aimed at improving treatment for the UK's 300,000 people with epilepsy.

The national scanning programme hopes to give 2,000 free

The assessment service will provide plans for individual treatments - though money is still needed to build its new premises.

"The full impact of the MRI unit will be felt in years to come," said Professor Simon Shorvon, medical director at the National Society for Epilepsy.

"By the end of the millennium, we hope to have provided relief, help and, where possible, a cure for many more people with difficult epilepsy."

Bucks Fizz singer Mike Nolan, who has epilepsy, was the first person to use the scanner under the programme. "It gives hope for people like me," he said.

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MOTOR

The first and most important thing to remember about this year's motorshow is that it was the London Motorshow. All the hype was geared to making us believe that it was the show for Britain. Viewed thus, it fell sadly short of the mark. But in its true context, this year's event was a fair attempt despite being short on atmosphere and a few models.

The venue was a headache. Earl's Court seems even more inaccessible after adaptations. Previously, disabled visitors simply parked in the designated area and were admitted into the main exhibition halls by security.

Any ambulant disabled person seen completing the present arrangements, involving steep slopes, ramps, heavy spring doors and a flight of steps without assistance, would be in danger of losing his DLA Mobility Component. Most manual wheelchair users would give up at the half-way point.

Once inside, it was pretty wheelchair friendly. Only two major stands appear to ignore our needs. The prize for the best attempt must go to Volkswagen (VW) for good signs and beautifully engineered ramps.

VW also get a pat on the back for showing their new automatic Polo, due for introduction

Pain, strain and automobiles

DN's motoring correspondent David Griffiths reporting from the access slow lane of Earl's Court finds some motors that throttle the opposition



A pat on the back for Volkswagen. They had excellent ramps and signs – and the new automatic Polo.

in 1996. Unlike Ford, who doggedly stick to the CTX variable format for their new Escort Automatic, VW have chosen to fit a "proper" automatic gear system in this newcomer. The Polo is one of the finest small cars, with proven reliability. So long as the price is right, this could become a popular choice.

Renault showed how not to do it. Impossibly steep, lengthy ramps led up to a platform, while several other short ramps led to just one model, from which it was impossible to get anywhere else. You simply had

to go right round the stand to find another access point, only to repeat the performance.

Multi-purpose vehicles

The emphasis this year was on multi-purpose vehicles (MPV). With so many actually sharing the same bits under a different marque, you need to be an expert not to confuse one with another.

MPVs (or people carriers) have their place in disability, mainly for ambulant users, but one may offer something for the wheelchair user too. The Honda Shuttle has a clutter-free floor up front, without a console or centre tunnel. The gearshift is column-mounted USA-style, and automatic transmission is standard. Pricewise it is unfortunately at the higher end (£23,000), but it offers considerably better access than many of its rivals.

The Galaxy from Ford and the VW Sharan look set to take a major slice of this market in the future. The Sharan automatic was particularly attractive with luxury armchair comfort from swivelling seats and a practical, hard-wearing fabric interior.

The world's biggest seller in this market has rarely been seen in Britain other than in use by disabled drivers. All this is set to change as Chrysler re-enters our country in a big way. The new Voyager is sleeker and much more attractive than its predecessor, but still can't catch the eye like its USA rival, the Chevrolet Lumina.

Other models at the show in this class included the Seat Alhambra, Peugeot 806, Fiat Ulysee and the very practical little Mitsubishi Spacerunner. Spacerunner is one of the most

attractive of the all "estate" type vehicles for disabled drivers. But, along with many others, it is often ignored simply by not being "on the Motability list".

Vauxhall showed that whatever some may think of their new Vectra, it does at least have a decent hatch. And it is certainly not as ugly as Ford's latest Granada which resembles something from the Easternbloc before the wall came down. Whether it will sell like the old Cavalier remains to be seen. Brits are funny when choosing cars — only we bought the Ford Cortina in any quantity, and the Vauxhall Viva never sold elsewhere like it did in Britain.

Nissan's Almera appears to be a good replacement for the Sunny. There's a wide variety of models from three door hatchback to saloons to an estate. less than a £300 deposit has got to be a winner.

It was a pleasure to note that most exhibitors had a wide knowledge. An informative discussion took place on the Peugeot stand over the wisdom of major structural modifications during vehicle adaptation. Microsoft were offering a hands-on demonstration of their AutoRoute Express routefinding program. This is the system on which the Disabled Motorists Federation RAMP service for disabled drivers is based. Their representative showed surprise at the extent to which the DMF had modified and used their system.

Low key atmosphere

Overall, the atmosphere was pretty low key, perhaps reflecting the state of the industry. Only Motability's stand appeared to offer a haven for smokers (both representatives puffed madly away as I passed!), but the barbecue aroma and resultant pollution on the Nissan stand may have upset some visitors.

That evening the *Shropshire Star* wrote "...£200 million has been lavished over the last five years to make the West London venue (Earl's Court) Britain's best exhibition centre as well as the most accessible to a national and international audience".

Try telling that to a Midlander. As for the toilets for disabled people—they must rank as some of the smallest available.

Next year sees the event at the NEC, Birmingham. This is of course the British Motorshow. See you there.



The Suzuki Swift with sporty looks – a Motability winner?

Automatic transmission and power steering options are there too. Nissan fans are unlikely to be disappointed.

On the Suzuki stand it was possible to get a close up of what could well be one of the more popular offerings on the Motability Contract Hire scheme – the Swift. This neat five door automatic hatch with sporty looks, power assisted steering and electric mirrors for

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Suzuki tel: (01293) 518000 Motability tel: (01279) 635666 RAMP route planner: tel: (017 43) 761181

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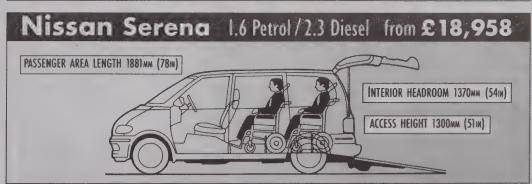
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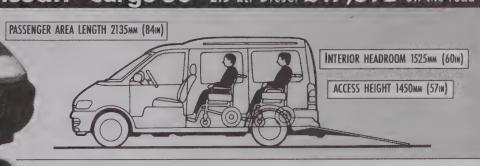
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Retiring, but not by nature

Rod Hermeston meets David Toole, who is leaving dance troupe CandoCo

He sits, squat and small as his dance partner sways and weaves before him. Then, as they lie on the floor, he climbs on to her back in one fluid motion and they begin a slow and graceful role. It looks effortless, but the occasional grunts betray the strain.

David Toole, 31, has no legs. They were removed when he was two years old. Much has been said about the way his powerful arms and altered centre of gravity allow for extraordinary



Toole: "I'm still a show off."

JOHN COLE

balance and a new exploration of the frontiers of dance since he joined dance troupe CandoCo.

"I don't tend to analyse what I

do. People say I have changed what dance is supposed to be. Who am I to argue?" he says. CandoCo comprises eight dancers, three in wheelchairs — though Toole is often out of his. He and his non disabled partner are practising a new routine called You Are Now Entering The State of Love, which is loosely based on the tale of Cupid and Psyche.

Since joining CandoCo, Toole has travelled the world and appeared in a BBC2 film *Outside In* for the "Dance for Camera" series. He also appeared as Puck in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

It all seemed highly unlikely until he joined the company at 27, having spent the previous nine years as a Post Office typist in his home town of Leeds.

Dancing has taken its toll on his arms. Now he is eager to combine acting with dance and to pick and choose his roles. He is leaving to make a film about the tango, to be filmed in Argentina and Paris.

"Being with CandoCo has changed my outlook on life. I



David Toole in action: "We have never sat down and thought this is a great way of getting a message across."

used to go for the safe option. I didn't like to rock the boat.

"Before, I would have been happy to carry on doing what I'm doing. Now I think I'm capable of doing something else. What that is I don't know, but I need to find out. I can't do that while I'm committed to this job."

Until he heard of CandoCo, he wasn't even interested in dancing. "I had what was possibly a typical northern attitude towards dance and dancers, that it was for wimps. I can tell you now – it is not."

He had only experienced wheelchair formation dancing at school. It didn't inspire. "If you could count to eight and drive in a straight line you were in."

At the Post Office he knew he was in a rut. "It was shift work, so your social life was nil."
He heard about a CandoCo

workshop in Leeds. "Someone gave me a leaflet and said you might be interested in this as you're a bit of a show-off.

"I was desperate for something different, and you can't get much more different than that. I just intended to do it once a week, certainly not what I'm doing now.

"For half of the first day I wondered what I was doing there. Once I got past worrying about what I looked like I was fine and wanted to know more."

CandoCo returned to Leeds a few weeks later and he was asked to join the company, which was still quite small.

Nothing to lose

"I didn't really hesitate. The job was going nowhere and I didn't have anything to lose."

He decided to study dance at the Laban Centre in London, but had the option to return to the Post Office.

"The day I left I knew I was never going to go back. It was nothing my family knew anything about. My mother was convinced I would get it out of my system. Now she can't wait to show friends articles about the celebrity in the family."

The wage with CandoCo is not brilliant but it is enough.

"I am still a show off. It's just in my nature any chance I get, which isn't a bad thing. It's got me where I am now."

Disability issues inevitably

emerge from CandoCo's work and Toole's involvement but they are less important to him than performance.

"I think I have probably changed a few people's views of disabled people. But that is their problem. They come with their ideas of what disabled people can and can't do. We virtually blow all that away.

"If people go away thinking differently all well and good."

"We have always said that above anything else we are a dance company. It just happens to be a coincidence that three people are in wheelchairs.

"We do not have a campaigning role that we have chosen although people have said things and forced it on us. We have never sat down and thought this is a great way of getting a message across."

A lot of CandoCo's work involves workshops, but it is not therapy, says Toole. "We want people to work to their maximum in any given situation and to take that ideal out into whatever they do."

It is a philosophy he practises. A chancer he may be, but his determination makes it unlikely he will ever fall flat on his face.

CandoCo is currently on tour. Toole's final UK performance will be at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London on 1 and 2 December. Details, tel: 0171-960 4242.

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Boxing: would you ban it?

Noble art or sordid brawl? With the death of James Murray in October and the harrowing scenes of Gerald McClellan and Michael Watson left brain damaged, the British Medical Association (BMA) is again calling for a ban on boxing. Dr Fleur Fisher of the BMA slogs it out with veteran bruiser Henry Cooper.



'Boxing is absolutely unique in that the blows to the head are not incidental, accidental or occasional. They are deliberate.'

Fleur Fisher

"There is nothing moral in the BMA's stance. This is an issue of prevention of disabling and preventable conditions.

"Accidents happen in all sports. Boxing is absolutely unique in that the blows to the head are not incidental, accidental or occasional. They are deliberate and part of the sport.

"The most effective method of getting a verdict in boxing is to inflict acute brain damage and knock somebody out."

Instant bleeding in the head causes catastrophic results immediately, but the other, more important, issue is gradual brain damage, she argues.

"The BMA believes that it has now been shown that there is a cumulative incidence of some deterioration of brain function that is more noticeable the more bouts that the person has had. We don't know if this is going to be reversible or not."

A UK-wide survey of neurologists by the late Professor Jan Corsellis studied brain damage among different types of sportsmen and women. It found that only two footballers, five rugby players and 12 jockeys had experienced chronic brain damage, as opposed to 289 boxers, whose problems arose from their long-term boxing.

Dr Fisher believes the recent succession of tragedies in the

ring that has forced the British Boxing Board of Control (BBBC) to look at the way boxers are treated, and issue new guidelines (*right*).

She welcomes these guidelines, but also wants long-term studies into brain damage.

The BBBC has called for boxers to have Magnetic Resonance Imaging annually. This will show up structural changes to the brain, but not changes to the way the brain works. It has also called for more funding for research into psychometric tests that show such changes.

However, these techniques only identify damage once it has occurred, says Dr Fisher.

The BMA wants an immediate ban on boxing for those under 16. Its view is backed by the Commission on Children and Violence, whose report, published in November and set up in the wake of the Jamie Bulger murder, has called for the abolition of youth boxing.

Says Dr Fisher: "It's an issue of informed consent and sadly some parents would take risks with their children's brain function.

"Head injuries are no respecters of age. A younger child can inflict a much less severe blow than an older child, but blows to the head always have a potential for damage.

She acknowledges that people who are involved in boxing are often from working class backgrounds. "Yes, maybe they are people who do not have great chances of being successful in life. But that is for social reasons.

"If that [boxing] is all our society can offer them as a career, it is scandalously wasteful."

Many were appalled that James Murray died in a bout that was part of an after dinner entertainment.

"I think that their health and minds are put at risk for the benefit of somebody else's income."

Of approximately 1,100 boxers only three or four make money, she says. As a challenger for the British Bantamweight title, James Murray would have pocketed just £4,000 for the fight which cost him his life.

Fleur Fisher is BMA head of ethics, science and information



'If you ban boxing, you would only force it underground... You'd have more tragedies. It's best to keep it in the open where you can control it.'

Henry Cooper

Henry Cooper started boxing when he was nine years old. The former British heavyweight champion, was the first to put Mohammed Ali on the canvas. His popularity is immense.

"We know brain damage is lurking in the background. But no-one makes boxers box. All boxers want to box.

"There are many more dangerous sports than boxing.

"I know most ex-boxers. I know where they are and none of them are in mental institutions or punchy."

He welcomes the measures introduced by the BBBC.

"They are trying to make it as safe as possible.

"Don't let's kid ourselves. If you ban boxing you would only force it underground. There is unlicensed fighting now.

"A ban would make it stronger. There are no rules or regulations, no doctors. You'd have more tragedies. It's best to keep it in the open where you can control it."

Schools taking up boxing again is, he thinks part of the answer. Sports Minister Iain Sproat is also said to support the idea, if softer gloves are used and there is a ban on punches to the head. But the decision is not his to make, says a department spokesman.

"It's not boxing we see now, it's fighting," says Cooper.
"When I was a kid, the first

thing that was instilled in me was that boxing was about hitting your opponent without being hit yourself.

"Modern trainers are just sending their boys forward on to punches which is making them [get hit] twice as hard. We've got to get the skill back into boxing."

"If you can start as a kid and learn the proper methods of boxing then you'll have the skills.

"Boxing opens a million doors. I've travelled the world and met the Royal family and it all comes out of my boxing. Boxers don't come from middle class families. They come from working class areas – tough areas."

Cooper watched the Murray fight on tv and sympathises with his parents, but does not believe the setting was immoral. "Small hall boxing is dead. Dinner shows are the only way youngsters and professional fighters are going to get the experience. How can it be exploitation? People paying to eat dinner bring in more money and the boxer gets more money in his purse.

"You can't deprive them of the chance of earning big money."

The BBBC's 12-point safety plan includes:

- Weigh-in times to be brought forward by at least 24 hours
- Annual, compulsory Magnetic Resonance Imaging brain scans
- Suspensions on boxers knocked out to be extended from 28 to 45 days
- Stricter post-contest medical checks
- More random drug testing
- Any boxer knocked unconscious or who "has taken excessive punishment" to go to hospital or face suspension
- Referees able to consult a ringside doctor at any time
- Clearly identifiable doctors or paramedics at the ringside
- Doctors to enter the ring immediately the fight is ended to check both boxers.

What do DN readers think? If you have a view, write to us at 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.



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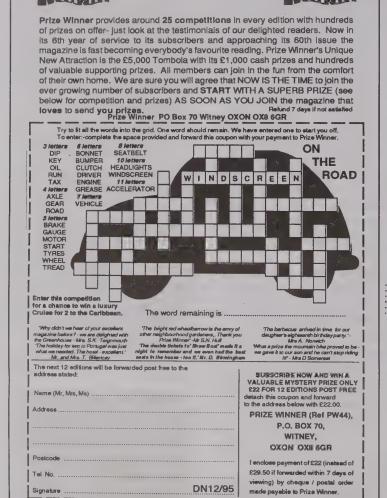
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Letters to the Editor



Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ Minicom: 0171-436 9914 Fax: 0171-436 4582 e-mail: dnow@d-access.demon.co.uk



Don't give up on higher education

I am a bit concerned that your front page item about Lin Berwick being refused funding for a full-time course of study (*DN October*) may deter potential applicants to university.

Are you aware of the Disabled Student Allowances for those studying full-time in higher education? They are £4,850 a year for personal non-medical support, eg readers and note-takers; £3,650 once per course for equipment; and £1,215 a year allowance to meet

disability related study costs.

At the University of East London (UEL) we have been encouraging applications from people with disabilities and offer support in gaining access to these allowances.

Many other universities are also trying to encourage and support applicants with disabilities. It would be a pity if your article deters anyone from considering entry to higher education.

UEL has a comprehensive

information booklet (tel: 0181-590 7722) and other universities offer similar publications.

Skill (The National Bureau for Students with Disabilities), 336 Brixton Road, London SW9 8RR gives advice and guidance about universities and their accessibility too. Viv Parker

Co-ordinator for Students with Disabilities/Special Needs University of East London Dagenham, Essex

Defective Royal

I was interested to read that Motability has enlisted Royal Insurance (*DN November*).

A policy I took out with the Guardian Royal Exchange unbeknown to me mysteriously transferred to the Royal via Norwich Union.

When I eventually received the policy document, I was disgusted to read one of their exclusions: "Exception Four Pre-existing Defects – any physical or mental defect or infirmity which was known to the insured."

Personally, I prefer to be known as Registered Disabled, as opposed to registered "Defect".

With such an attitude to disabled people, do we really need the likes of Royal Insurance insuring an organisation for defective (sorry, disabled) drivers?

A A Bolland

Middleton, Lancashire

Community care dirge

The Government has turned insane

And Bedlam's on the streets again.

What can this latest madness be?

It's care in the community.

They are closing the asylums

To move the patients into town. Now from a place they know so well,

They have been taken to a Hell.

My neighbours who are full of fear

Say – "We don't want them living here.

Do you expect that they will

cope?
So many of them have no hope.

Are they capable of living

In a world so unforgiving,
Where to differ is a sin?
Do you think they will fit in?"

So now their lives are obsolete, A number living on the street. A few – arrested – locked inside. For some the answer's suicide.

And what has happened to the care

Is it a burden we can't bear? For if we leave these people lost, Their many lives could be the cost.

So was it not a little rash
To save the Government some

By setting out a policy
That causes so much misery?
Ms V F Bewley
Calne, Wiltshire

Calling parents

From the January issue, *DN* will have a regular column for parents written by a parent. If you have views, advice or useful tips to share, contact the Editor.

M

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sic

Bus speak

Bus stops all over the country are breaking their vow of silence and beginning to speak. But their only intelligible words are part of an advertising gimmick for Sci-fi Tv, a new satellite and cable channel. It's the bright idea of Adshel, the bus shelter advertising company.

"Don't these dash buses stop when a chap puts his arm out? Not if you're invisible I guess," says an invisible voice.

Pity they couldn't have talking timetables and announcements. It might banish those tales of buses popping out of nowhere and not stopping so often told by visually impaired people.

Hebden Bridge

Whatever's happened to Hebden Bridge, Sir Bernard Ingham's home town? Sam Tennant, 12, who has cerebral palsy, arrived by train, got no help up the stairs and had to go to Rochdale and back to reach the exit on the other platform. It shunt 'appen.















It's party time!

Kids can get their glad rags on and go wild, writes Alison Miller



Stars and stripes (above): Zahrah shines in a crushed velvet indigo

dress with gold stars (triacetate/nylon, £15.99, Mothercare) over a

layered petticoat (cotton/viscose, £9.99, Mothercare). Faux pearl jewellery, £2 from BHS. Rose hair decoration, £3.50 from Moth-

ercare. Anthony looks like trouble in this Dennis the Menace outfit (shirt with bow tie: cotton, £14; waistcoat: polyester, £14;

trousers with red stripe: polyester/viscose, £17. All from BHS.)

Parcels of fun (below): Zharah looks cool in this patterned dress

(cotton, £18.99, Next) and cardigan (wool/polyester, £14.99, Next)

Thanks to Catherine for her hospitality and to Preethi for her time.

Christmas is the time of year when you can put away all your sensible clothes and go for something with a bit of glitz.

DN asked two budding supermodels to check out what the best dressed kids will be wearing over the festive season.

Nine-year-old Anthony Ford thought the checked shirt was comfortable and went well with the knitted waistcoat and chinos.

Anthony is a wheelchair user with cerebral palsy. His mum, Catherine, usually buys him

loose fitting clothes. She thought Anthony looked great in this outfit. "It looks really soft and comfortable. It's a nice combination of colours and textures."

Zahrah Manuel is eight. She has cp and also likes to wear warm, loose-fitting clothes. Her mother Preethi was impressed with the patterned dress from Next.

"It's beautiful. As well as being very Christmassy, the buttons up the front are so convenient."

She also liked the red cardigan, but said that she would like to see more machine-washable wools. "Acrylics are not really suitable for children like Zahrah who get cold easily."

Preethi commented that Zahrah loves to get dressed up. The crushed velvet dresses from Mothercare were a hit. "They're lovely and soft for Zahrah to touch without being slippery. But they're also machine washable and look quite special."

Preethi also liked the layered petticoat. "It is nice as a one off on special occasions."

Game boy (right): Anthony looks dashing in chinos (cotton, £18, Marks & Spencer's) with a checked shirt (cotton, £9, BHS) and rust knitted waistcoat acrylic, £10, BHS).

It's a cracker (below): Anthony wears Dennis the Menace shirt and trousers as before, with a red waistcoat (wool/polyester, £18, Marks & Spencer's). Zharah looks like a princess in a luxurious lilac crushed velvet dress and headband (triacetate/nylon, £15.99, Mothercare). Petticoat as before. Handbag £4.99 from Mothercare.





A miraculous free video offer for DN readers!



Miracle on 34th Street is the



story of a kind-hearted department store Santa Claus. Is he just a guy in a red suit or could this be the real thing? Kids will love this heartwarming tale and we've got ten copies to give away to the first readers to send a self addressed postcard to Miracle offer, DN, 12 Park Crescent, London WC1N 4EQ.

Buy Christmas cards by DN artist!



DN's Christmas tree card (162mm x 114mm) was designed by disabled artist Averil Marshall from Cleveland.

The cards come in packs of ten for just £2.95. The greeting inside reads "Happy Christmas and best wishes for the new year

Place your order today and you won't be disappointed!

Name	BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE
Address	

















Christmas wouldn't be the same without a little excess. Thorntons have a range of chocolates suitable for people with diabetes. We've got ten boxes to give away to the first readers to send a self addressed postcard to *Disability Now*, Chocolates Offer, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.



Tinsel ti

We've got tons of suggestions to help with you practical gifts, Mik Scarlet dreams up perfect p

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Each year, especially at Christmas, we are given too many soaps, talcs and aftershave lotions – some guaranteed to keep everyone at a distance! So here's a list of products which may be unglamorous, but are practical, and most are available in large high street stores.

Special occasions need celebrating, but what is the use of a bottle of wine if you can't open it? WL Culinare make the Sure Grip corkscrew at £7.99. Tefal have a Wine Accessories Set of corkscrew, a gadget to reseal bottles and a 16-page guide to serving and storing wines – all for about £11.

To open cans of nuts, paté, etc there's the Culinare Safety Can Opener, which cuts through the rim of the lid leaving no sharp edges. The only can opener approved by Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, it costs £12.99. Also by Culinare is a battery-driven hand mixer which many people found extremely useful and is now back on the market. £14.99.

The Tumble Not mug caught my eye – so different from those thick, heavy ones. It is made of china with either a Star Trek motif or pretty floral and geometric designs. Liquid doesn't spill easily, even when tilted at 45 degrees. Ideal if you have unsteady hands. Available with one or two handles through Boots and other stores. Approximately £8.99.



Attractive appliances from Morphy Richards

















e treats

stmas shopping. Anne Davies has some es and there's plenty for kids too.

e deep rich colours of Morphy 'cordless filter kettle and toasters. reen, they stand out against pale proximately £26 kettle, £23 toaster. p trays are invaluable – some have a ttached to the bottom (I'm using rite this). Try Sartor Personal latalogue, mail order: mostly VAT

also a wheelchair shopping bag at and a handy five-zipped nent hip bag to fit around the waist Sartor Ltd, Glen View Road, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 3EF. t forgotten left handed people – from scissors to a left-handed ng can be obtained from Anything ded, Brewer Street, London W1, tel:

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the Yardley aromatherapy range

en suffer from very sensitive skin aces. Clinique have a soothing after n. Decleor have a moisturising for extra sensitive skins, £17. maybe, but a little goes a long way. ver gel, £7.75.

le pampering, try the Yardley rapy range - relaxing, calming or g oils and soaps with rosemary or od, or Bronnley new moisturising six lovely fragrances at £5.95 each.

red

e long hot summer, fridges and ere working overtime trying to some may break down. If they do, it's inevitable that it will be just when we've stocked up with

Buyers and Sellers, 120-122 Ladbroke Grove, London W10 5NL, tel: 0171-229 1947 have been well know for 40 years for their ends of lines and special purchases which are new and



guaranteed. Nationwide delivery. They also stock washing machines, tumble dryers, cookers and microwaves.

Iceland Foods have an excellent range of fridge freezers in more than 750 stores throughout the country. They will deliver and take away the old model. All their models are CFC free and the range includes smaller models for smaller kitchens.

Their Care package is good and includes emergency repairs - up to £300 food cover, all year round service and, if necessary, free appliance loan if they can't repair your fridge or freezer in your home.

Keep this by you in case of need! But most importantly, enjoy yourselves and have a happy Christmas!



Looking for a children's gift? For tiny tots, how about a pullalong wooden horse (£13.60) or train (£22.40) from Countrywide Workshops? These traditional toys are sturdy and satisfying to touch. They are all hand-made by disabled people, tel: (01722) 326886.

Fisher Price have a chunky tape recorder(£30). Bright and colourful, the large buttons make it easy to use too.

Boots have a Jungle torch (£9) with three animal heads. They also have Potty Plants gardening kits (£2) for greenfingered children. Or, for bathtime fun, how about their Pirates toiletries (£5)? A set includes two bubble baths, two soaps, stickers and a sponge cutlass, all in a pirate hat.

For trendy kids BHS have a Pocahontas rucksack (£8), crocodile puppet (£10) or Sonic the Hedgehog slippers (£9).

The Royal National Institute for the Blind has lots of adapted games. Supermodel



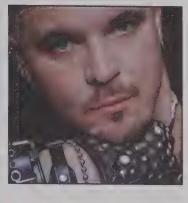
Anne Davies | Noisy fun: Lollipop Jungle

Anthony Ford's mum Catherine (see page 15) felt these were suitable for children with cp as well as those who are visually impaired. "The big letters are excellent for a child like Anthony who has poor coordination." Giant Scrabble (£16.22-£23.51), Quarto (£24.99) and Connect 4 (£8.25-£12.40) tel: (0345) 023153.



TFH have plenty of toys designed for children with special needs. Jiggy Piggy (£29) is a toy which vibrates when you cuddle him. Their Lollipop Jungle (£37.50) makes a great noise when the lollipops are knocked together. They also have large piece wooden jigsaws to keep children occupied over the holidays (£6.15-£14.50). Tel: (01299) 827820.

Russian Santa decoration (shown above) not a toy (£10) Marks & Spencer's.



My perfect Christmas list

Dad would get any new Bob Dylan or Rolling Stones CDs (being an ageing hippie). Mum would get stuff for her garden or a new outfit.

DN suggests: Stripped (Virgin) The Rolling Stones latest cd. Or grey jacquard evening dress from Next, £59.95.



I'd get my brother Steve a Hasselblad camera. Steve's just started a photography degree. No mean feat for someone with dyslexia who was only diagnosed last year! Dyslexia is one of the worst disabilities. It is not truly recognised, and in a society based around reading, it stops access to a lot more than stairs and stuff. Good on ya Steve, stick with it.

I'd get my girlfriend, Diane, an AKAI S3000 sampler. She's doing a music technology course. It's so cool going out with someone who understands what you do. Now we just fight over who gets into my studio first. Love you baby.

You should treat yourself at Christmas too, so I'd get myself a custom-built trike from Desperate Dan's of Leighton Buzzard who convert trikes for disabled people. It'd look great, I'd be mobile after I lost my car to Motability, and I'd get the freedom of the road. True Rock 'n' Roll. Tel: (01525) 383461.

I'd get my band, Erotics, a record deal. We're are a great band and would sell bucket loads. Also, we'd change society's view of disabled people as sexless. It's about time we had a disabled pop star and I'm applying for the post, so hurry up and sign us Sony! I'll need a deal to be able to afford these presents! Have a good one.

Mik Scarlet

Pain relief machine offer for DN readers



Medicur uses magnetic fields to relieve pain. It fits into the palm of your hand, is operated with one button and held over the area where the pain is most concentrated. Marie Langley

(above) has chronic pain and found it helped her. She is a pain relief consultant and has made a tape and booklet with advice and tips. Medicur costs £125 incl p+p + VAT (not applicable if you are registered disabled or have a long-term illness) but we've got two to give away free, plus 25% off another ten machines. The package consists of machine, Marie's tape

and instructions and a sample of pain relief gel. Just send this form to DN offer, Medicur UK Ltd, 16 Pilcher Gate, Nottingham NG1 1QE. If you're not satisfied with the product, Medicur UK Ltd will refund all your money minus p+p within 60 days

Yes, I w	ould like a free Medicur
Name _	
Address	<u> </u>
	Postcode
lf I	
	I am unsuccessful, please send details of w to claim 25% off normal price.















Fed up with turkey for Christmas? DN looks at some festive alternatives.

Vegetarian

Christmas Casserole

This should be started three days in advance. Use tinned chestnuts and chickpeas to save time. Marinade: 450ml red wine, 4 tbsp brandy, sprig of fresh rosemary, 12 peppercorns (crushed), 12 juniper berries (crushed), 1 tsp salt, 1 tsp mustard powder Other ingredients: 115g dried apricots, 115g dried chickpeas, 115g dried chestnuts, 1 aubergine, 2 large onions, 2 large carrots, 10 cloves garlic, 2 tbsp olive oil, 600ml vegetable stock, 1 tbsp paprika, zest and juice of 1 lemon, 1 tbsp brown sugar, salt and pepper

nuts separately overnight. Second day: boil the chickpeas for two hours. Drain and add to the marinade. Boil the chestnuts for 30 mins. Remove any remnants of skin and add to the marinade. Leave overnight.

First day: prepare the marinade

and put the apricots in to soak.

Soak the chickpeas and chest-

Third day: chop the aubergine into cubes, sprinkle with salt and leave for two hours. Rinse, drain and pat dry. Add to marinade. Slice onions, carrots and

garlic. Heat the oil and fry the sliced vegetables for a moment. Then add all the marinated ingredients, including the liquid and vegetable stock. Bring to the boil and simmer for 11/2 hours.

Remove from the heat and take out the vegetables. Keep warm. Return the pan to the heat. Add paprika, lemon zest, juice and sugar. Reduce the stock to about 1/2pt. Return the vegetables to the pan. Heat through and save. Serve with roast potatoes and steamed vegetables.

Italian Christmas Cake

70g seedless raisins, 11/2tbsp rum, 340g honey, 40g vegan margarine, 1 tsp cinnamon, 1/2 tbsp aniseed, 370g plain flour, 170g cooked and sieved apples, 170g blanched almonds, chopped or flaked, 70g bitter



chocolate, chopped, 170g candied orange and lemon peel, 40g pine nuts, 11/2 tsp bicarbonate of soda, candied fruits and walnuts or pecan halves for decoration Soak raisins in rum for 30 mins. Put honey, margarine and three tbsp of water in a pan. Stir until liquid, but do not boil.

for delivery. If you are not satisfied

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Traditional temptation, but why not try a low-fat turkey this year?

Mix in cinnamon and aniseed. Put flour in a bowl and pour in honey mixture. Stir well.

Mix fruit puree, almonds, chocolate, peels, raisins and rum into flour mix. Fold in pine nuts. Finally, add bicarbonate of soda dissolved in a little water.

Turn on to well oiled 24cm/ 91/2in loose based tin. Cook for 1¹/₂ hours at 170°C/325°F/ gas mark 3, then turn out on to a wire rack to cool. Glaze top with apricot jam and candied peels.

Diabetic

Peppered Roast Beef

1.5kg lean topside of beef, 3 tbsp crushed peppercorns, 6 tbsp horseradish sauce, 2 tbsp gravy powder, 2 tbsp cold water, salt and pepper Trim beef of excess fat, and wipe with kitchen paper. Mix the peppercorns and horseradish sauce together to a paste. Spread over the meat and place on a trivet set in a roasting pan. Cover with foil and cook at 220°C/425°F/gas mark 7 for 20 mins per 1lb(450g), plus 20 mins.

Drain excess fat from the roasting tin. Mix the gravy powder with the cold water to from a smooth paste. Stir the paste into the pan juices with 1pt (550ml) of liquid strained from accompanying vegetables. Simmer on the hob, stirring continuously until the gravy has thickened. Season to taste.

Serve with potatoes and freshly cooked vegetables.

Mini Christmas Puddings

100g dried apricots, chopped, 100g sultanas, 100g seedless raisins, 4 tbsp brandy, 25g glacé cherries, quartered, 50g chopped mixed nuts, 75g wholemeal breadcrumbs, 50g suet or vegetarian suet, 1 tsp ground mixed spice, 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon, 1 lemon,

grated rind, 2 eggs lightly beaten Grease and base-line eight dariole moulds or very small heatproof teacups. Soak the dried apricots, sultanas and raisins in the brandy overnight. Add the cherries and nuts. Mix the breadcrumbs, suet, spices and lemon rind together, then stir into the fruit mixture. Finally, add the eggs and stir well.

Divide the mixture among the prepared moulds. Cover each with greaseproof paper and foil, then tie up with string.

Steam for two hours. Leave to cool, then cover with greaseproof paper and foil. Can be stored for up to two weeks. To reheat, steam for a further two hours. Makes eight puddings.

From The Everyday Diabetic Cookbook, by Stella Bowling, £10.99, Grub Street & British Diabetic Association.

Low cholesterol

Roast Turkey

7.2-8.64kg free range turkey, 1 lemon, 240ml chopped fresh parsley, 4 cloves minced garlic, 3 small onions, minced, 2 tbsp chopped fresh rosemary, 3 tbsp dijon mustard, 1 tbsp grated parmesan cheese, 6 spanish onions, stock, cognac When the turkey is at room temperature, remove giblets and use to make stock. Wash turkey inside and out and rub it inside with a cut lemon. Preheat oven to 170°C/325°F/gas

Loosen the skin on the breast. Mix the parsley, garlic, minced onion, rosemary, mustard and parmesan. Spread the mixture on the breast, under the skin.

Stuff the large cavity of the bird with three spanish onions, quartered. Plug opening with a ball of foil. Secure the neck flap with a skewer. Secure the wings to the body with skewers. Do not truss the legs.

Place breast down on a rack in a roasting pan in the preheated oven. Put some stock and a small amount of cognac in the pan. Slice three onions into the pan. Roast, breast down, for a little more than half the cooking time (20 mins per lb). Then turn the breast up for the remainder of the time. Baste with stock and a bit of cognac every 20 mins or so. If the turkey browns too fast, drape it with a clean cheesecloth and baste through the cloth.

While the bird is resting, pour the pan juices into a jug and place in the freezer so the fat rises to the top. Skim off all fat and pour the juices back into the pan. Put on the stove. Add a bit more stock if necessary and 120ml cognac. Boil rapidly, stirring, and scraping up the browned bits. Strain the gravy if you wish. Discard the skin and the stuffing under the skin. Serve with the gravy, boiled potatoes and steamed vegetables.

Eggless Christmas Cake

75g sultanas, 75g raisins, 75g currants, 75g glacé cherries halved, 50g cut mixed peel, 250ml apple juice, 25g toasted hazelnuts, 2 tbsp pumpkin seeds, 2 pieces chopped stem ginger in syrup, finely grated rind of 1 lemon, 120ml skimmed milk, 50ml sunflower oil, 225g wholemeal self-raising flour, 2 tsp mixed spice, 3 tbsp brandy or dark rum, apricot jam, glacé fruits to decorate. Put the sultanas, raisins, currants, cherries and peel in a bowl and stir in the apple juice. Cover and leave overnight.

Preheat oven to 150°C/300°F/ gas mark 2. Grease and line an 18cm/7in square cake tin.



Have your cake and eat it!

Add the hazelnuts, pumpkin seeds, ginger and lemon rind to the fruit. Stir in the milk and oil. Sift the flour and spice and stir into the mixture with the brandy or rum.

Spoon into the tin. Bake for 1¹/₂ hours, or until the cake is golden brown. Cool on a wire rack. Brush with sieved apricot jam. Decorate with glacé fruits.

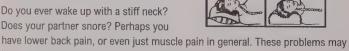
From The Low Fat Low Cholesterol Cookbook, by Christine France, £12.95, Lorenz Books.

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David Blunkett at the October launch of his autobiography

On a Clear Day by David Blunkett £14.99 Michael O'Mara **Books Limited**

I have a claim to fame where David Blunkett is concerned. I've met Offa - Mr Blunkett's current guide dog. On a Clear Day is very much about guide dogs. This is quite natural as Mr Blunkett, the Labour Party spokesperson for education, is blind.

Indeed, I am sure he will not mind me saying that, well known and respected as he is, Offa and his predecessors are almost as famous as the MP himself.

He makes the point in the introduction to this autobiography that the book is as much about the dogs as himself, since his career is too young to warrant a book of political memoirs.

Perhaps this is the problem. As I was reading, I was never quite sure whether this was a semi-amusing account of life with a guide dog in the corridors of power, or a semiserious account of the blossoming career of a prominent blind politician.

Not only was I confused, but it seemed that Mr Blunkett was confused as well. The style is stiff and stilted. There are potentially amusing stories: Blunkett talks about the day when Teddy, his first dog, decided to bound across Sheffield Council chamber and jump in the lap of Sydney Dyson. This was just at the moment when the young Mr Blunkett was about to rise to his feet and propose Mr Dyson as the next Lord Mayor of Sheffield. But these fail to achieve their full impact.

There is a corresponding diffidence when we are told of very real achievements, such as

Mr Blunkett's part in the pioneering cheap fares policy of the South Yorkshire Transport Authority in the seventies.

This is a pity because I was left wanting to know more. There is obviously a very interesting and warm story there, both about the dogs and the life of a gifted and committed politician. To say nothing of the real battles he must have fought to be accepted as a blind man in Westminster.

After reading this book, I know more about Mr Blunkett's life, but I do not really feel that I know the man very much better.

Which takes us back to where we started. Last year, at the Labour Party conference, I was asked to speak at a reception to mark the 25 years of work for disabled people by Alf Morris, architect of the 1970 Chronically Sick and Disabled Person's Act.

I was sitting there, waiting to say my piece, when I felt a wet nose on my lap. I looked down at a pair of big brown eyes gazing up at me with a tail wagging furiously at the other end. I got to know Offa quite well in the following ten minutes. After reading this book I would like to have got to know his master better too.

Glynn Vernon

A book is always a great gift. Here are a few suggestions.

Actor Paul Eddington sadly died last month. He'd been treading the boards for 50 years, but will be best remembered for his roles in tv's The Good Life and Yes Minister. In his autobiography So Far So Good he talks frankly about his career, his family life and his 20 year battle with skin cancer. £17.99 from bookshops.

Dancing in the Dark by Steve Bull is a personal account of the author's expedition across



Europe's highest ice-cap, where he led a team of disabled and able-bodied adventurers. £5.95 from Merlin Books Ltd, tel: (01271) 816430.

Ian Waterman has a neurological disease so rare that it has no name. It deprived him of all sensation below the neck and he was unable to

The great DN Christmas giveaway continues...



Yes we've got ten copies of the Which? Good Food Guide 1996 to give away. This meaty guide contains reviews of more than 1,300 eateries in the UK. Its findings are based on readers' reports and independent inspections. The first ten readers to write in will receive a free copy. Send a selfaddressed postcard to Which? Food Offer, Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.

If you've had one mince pie too many, why not take your mind off it with a slice of romance? We've got five copies of a BBC reading of Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice on audio tape. Copies will go to the first readers to send a postcard with their name and address to Austen Book Offer, Disability Now, address as above. (Offers not open to DN staff, relatives or associates.)



calculate where his body was in space. Pride and a Daily Marathon by Jonathan Cole tells how he used sight to monitor every movement and eventually recover some of his mobility. Now available in paperback, £10.95 from The MIT Press, tel: 0171-306 0603.

A Special Picture Cookbook has lots of recipes plus step-bystep instructions and illustrations on the basics of cooking, such as cutting and using a cooker. It is intended for children with learning difficulties under adult supervision. £18.60 from Toys for the Handicapped, tel:

(01299) 827820.

Allan Sutherland, who has epilepsy, has published a first volume of biting poetry and prose. Sutherland writes candidly about disability. But, be warned, he pulls no punches and this volume is not for the faint hearted. £5 plus £1 postage and packing from Allan Sutherland, 60 Bonham Road, London SW2 5HG. Here's his version of a famous nursery rhyme: "Mary had a wheelchair It rolled across the floor And everywhere that Mary She couldn't get in the door".



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A magical mystery tour

Joe Hamilton and Robin Henkel raised £5,000 so their son Hugh could swim with dolphins

It was Christmas last year when my wife Robin dreamed that our son Hugh, four, who has spastic diplegia and Erbs palsy, was swimming with dolphins.

This sparked off a series of events that led us in October to the Dolphin Human Therapy Centre in Key Largo, Florida. Hugh attended the Kerland Clinic in Somerset (now known as Brainwave). Every three months the clinic offers a series of exercises to improve motor and cognitive skills. During our January visit, Robin mentioned dolphin therapy and was given the phone number of a family taking their child to Key Largo.

They gave us information about Dr David Nathanson's Dolphin Human Therapy Centre and his extraordinary successes with children with special needs.

Dr Nathanson said he would try to get us a two-week slot as soon as possible. At the start of May, he called to offer us two weeks in early October. We said "yes" without hesitation.



Learning colour co-ordination

Having committed ourselves, we then had to find the money to pay for it. The therapy programme is individually tailored to meet your child's needs, but costs \$2,500 (about £2,000) a week. So, we had to raise \$5,000 for the treatment



Rub the Genie: Hugh and therapists get to know "his" dolphin at Key Largo, Florida

JOE HAMILTON

alone, and then fly out there and feed ourselves.

We had to accept that we could not raise the money alone. We also did not want to turn our son into the classic image of the pitiful little boy needing a helping hand.

We decided to create a festival of events. We arranged a festival and fête, friends had jumble sales and our \$1,000 deposit was loaned to us by a close friend.

An artist friend had an extraordinary, inflatable multisensory "Meggapolis", which is wheelchair accessible and travels the world to various festivals. He offered it to us free of charge and we staged a two-day event in Teddington with the help of the Friends of St Albans. We raised £980 in two days.

Through other friends, we were able to get Jim McCarty and Chris Dreja of The Yardbirds to "do a gig" at our local community centre in Southfields, west London.

We found advertising in local shops and pubs brought

immediate responses without too much effort.

While the events blossomed and brought in nearly £3,000, we also raised money by collecting aluminium cans for recycling. We approached schools and community centres to set up collection sites. The local *Guardian* started an appeal and wrote articles each week for a month about Hugh and the proposed therapy.

The time limit made the challenge more exciting. With a week to go, we made our goal of £5,000.

Anticipation

The flight to America was full of excitement and anticipation. Upon arrival at the Dolphin Human Therapy Centre, we were welcomed and then briefed by Dr Nathanson. The sessions were to last 40 minutes a day. Hugh was assigned a therapist and would work with the same dolphin, "Genie".

The programme was consistent, disciplined and challenged the children to do the best they could, given their physical and emotional condition at the time.

All the children, Hughie

included, were tearful and apprehensive. Hugh did not go into the water on the first day. He cried a lot and I had to go down to the dock to console him. Other children were in the water within 20 minutes. By the end of the second day, he was happily swimming.

The motivational force of having the dolphins swimming around you all day, and the fact that the child gets to swim with them if a task is completed, is an incentive for each child to work really hard.

The learning process seemed to speed up with each day and Hugh was dealing with tasks within minutes that originally took ages. His friendship with staff blossomed and, through them, he learned to trust his own abilities and feelings.

When he performed well on the dock, he could choose to swim with the dolphins or do another task. Suprisingly, he occasionally chose the latter rather than swim with Genie.

To Robin and myself this was a sign of his being more aware of his needs and goals. We were suprised to see him developing these skills so quickly. He seemed to be growing in confidence; his spasticity was reduced. He ate and slept well, and for the first time in years so did we.

At the end of the two weeks, we had a more relaxed and focused child. His coordination improved tremendously. His right arm was much stronger and he held things more securely. His stepping is continually improving and the length of stride is impressive.

His conversational skills are more connected to the here and now, and he does daily activities more clearly. His language is more colourful and almost poetic.

Uncharted voyage

Hugh described the dolphin experience as having made him "happy and sad at the same time". He also described it as "magic and fun". He now sees the world through the eyes of a child who has travelled an unchartered voyage to a wonderful place. Child and dolphin have communicated secretly and lovingly together.

There has been no miracle cure and we will be continuing



Robin with Hugh, standing on flat feet, after a therapy session

Hugh's swimming lessons for as long as he is happy to do them. We will also continue to fund raise for another session next year. But for us, and particularly Hughie, the healing has begun.

Dolphin Human Therapy Centre, 13605 South Dixie Highway, #523, Miami, Florida 33176-7252, USA.



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Marigold Hope on her first impressions of Edinburgh

Hi there! I'm Marigold Hope, 19, in my first year at Edinburgh university studying politics, philosphy and ancient history. I'm a loud and outgoing person with a need for quieter moments.

I was born with congenital deformites. My club foot, lack of calf muscle and shortening of my left leg plus knee problems sometimes affect my mobility. I move between being able bodied and disabled. I'm not supposed to run or jump and must limit my dancing and standing. I hate adhering to this. Often I suffer the consequences of being more active.

I grew up with my parents and sister in London and then a quiet village in Dorset. I was rebellious at my comprehensive. Learning didn't become a priority until I went to Weymouth College to do A levels. I made extremely good friends there. I felt fantastic when I got into Edinburgh.

I spent last year working and travelling. I thought I would love to work in the media or a pressure group. My year out confirmed that.

Edinburgh is a beautiful city full of grand Georgian buildings.

Independence, friends and horrible food

This makes access for some disabled people difficult.

The university has an open arms approach to disabled students saying if we want to come here they'll make that possible.

This year it has changed the direction of its special needs policy. Ironically, the special needs co-ordinator (part-time) still has her office up three flights of stairs in a liftless building. And although there is piecemeal adaptation of some buildings, students are waiting for changes while they study. Our disabilities co-ordinator believes the university should make adaptations before students arrive – and spend more than £45,000 a year on other things.

I've been here for three weeks but if feels like months. I chose to live in halls of residence because everyone said it was the best way to make friends. They weren't wrong. Halls are a den of sociability.

I was petrified and excited to start with. I braved going to supper and met a girl on the way. She has been one of my closest friends since. I've met people I can envisage being friends with for years.

Intense experience

Being at Edinburgh university is an intense experience. Halls are no exception. They accommodate 2,000 of the 4,000 first years. I'm still faced with a sea of faces I don't know every time I look into the dining hall.

Living in halls saves worrying about cooking, paying bills or landlords. But the food is horrible and the buildings are based on the design of a Swedish prison – not very homely.

It is taking a while to adjust. My room above the front door is one of the noisiest. Last night



Grub on a grant: Marigold (centre) in hall with friends

a raucous lot were singing "I'm still alive" to music. I lay there and asked myself, "Am I still going to be alive in the morning if they don't shut up?"

Student life is extremely active. I love clubbing and dancing, but it's frustrating stopping so quickly. Friends are sympathetic about my disabilities but need a lot of reminding that I can't stand for long.

I only get self-conscious about my deformed hands around people I fancy. I wish I didn't hide them, but people's reactions have trained me to do that.

Aside from going out and the

sad I can't go home sometimes.

Just getting hold of the disabilities officer is difficult, but people are helpful and willing to licent It is only the coart of terms.

listen. It is only the start of term and there are brilliant aspects about being here: especially the independence and new friends.

huge workload, there are also

a disabilities training and

For me, being at university

consists of extreme highs and

lows. I laughed at my mum for

asking if I was sure I would be

ok so far from home. Now I feel

awareness committee.

societies to join. I'm standing as

faculty representative and I'm on

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'Embroidery offers something for everyone'

In the ninth of our series, Carolyn Sinclair says let yourself go

Welcome to the colourful world of embroidery and all the creative opportunities it offers.

I experimented with small pieces of tapestry and cross-stitch as a teenager. But my real love at this time was outdoor pursuits – mountaineering and sailing.

In the early 1980s, embroidery enjoyed a revival in this country when designs from abroad, such as Lanarta from Holland, began to appear. Like many people, I picked up my needle again, despite having very little spare time between working as a physiotherapist and sailing every weekend. Eventually I finished two large embroideries from the Tutankhamen exhibition which still have pride of place in my home.

At this time, I travelled abroad a lot. I spent many hours at airports and on planes. I put this time to good use by keeping some embroidery in my bag. Small cross-stitch kits were ideal.

When my husband and I spent a year sailing around the world, my embroidery went too. I completed a number of small embroideries, two large cross-stitch embroideries and I knitted a sweater! Fellow yachtsmen were amused by the sight of a yachtswoman on the

boat with her embroidery – it didn't quite fit the image. So what is the image?

Embroidery can be whatever you want it to be. It can be as inexpensive or as costly as you like. There are as many different forms as there are public libraries, copy the charts and buy your own canvas and wools. Friends may also have wool in their cupboards that you can beg, borrow or steal! Cross-stitch is probably the

most popular form of

embroidery and there are a



Ready, steady, sew: Carolyn tackles her latest embroidery

fabrics and threads. You can have a traditional or modern tapestry worked in tent stitch, for example. There is a marvellous range available from Gloriafillia in kit form. If this seems too costly, you can borrow books of designs from

wide range of kits available.
Designs vary from Disney characters to traditional samplers. At the moment I am working on a large map of Great Britain by Heritage Stitchcraft. After two years it is nearly complete.

There are many books of designs, and ones which explain how to design too. The newsagents are full of embroidery magazines with small kits on the front which are excellent for beginners.

When multiple sclerosis type symptoms began to affect me strongly five years ago, my interest in embroidery grew. So did the frustrations of disability. As my arms and hands weakened, I found I could not hold my frame for any period of time. I solved this by trying out seat and standing frames to hold my embroidery rings. I used a needle threader and a thread sorter. Bulbs which produced the effect of daylight, simply working in a good light and enlarging charts on a photocopier helped visual problems. Magnifiers can also assist. But most of all, I discovered that keeping my embroidery well organised with everything I needed easily accessible meant that I could pick it up at any time, even if only for a few minutes.

Materials by mail

I found that shops were happy to help me try out frames, and mail order was an excellent way of buying threads and fabrics. Small embroidery shops may not advertise mail order but are often willing to post their wares.

As I became less able, much of the energy and enthusiasm that I had put into sailing now went into my embroidery. I reached a point where I needed a new challenge. Two years ago I found it – modern embroidery. It opened up a whole new world of creativity.

Modern embroidery is also known as textile art because of its variety. It may be hand stitching or machine embroidery.

Fabrics and threads can even be glued down and stitched over. You can use every type of yarn – thick or thin, pieces or scraps of fabric, beads and anything else that takes your fancy. This is the essence of modern embroidery – it is your design and whatever you want it to be.

If this all sounds a bit terrifying, don't panic, help is at hand. There are many books covering every aspect of the subject, including beginners' guides. Books with lots of



Egyptian stitching: one of Carolyn's first pieces

coloured pictures are the most inspirational. Don't be frightened by the designs. They often look more complicated than they actually are.

Embroidery can give you a new social life. There are plenty of classes and workshops and I have always found tutors and other students more than willing to help you participate as fully as everyone else.

Help is at hand

A visit to Alexander Palace Knitting and Stitching Exhibition in October gave me the opportunity to talk to tutors like Richard Box and Pam Watts, who are also well known authors on embroidery. Both have students with disabilities and told of how they had overcome difficulties. They felt everyone should be able to get the same creative enjoyment out of embroidery. It is enthusiasm that matters.

If you can't hand embroider, try machine embroidery, suggests Pam Watts. You can paint the background fabric before you start. This can look very effective and also reduce the amount of stitching needed.

Dilys Manoy, who teaches silk and fabric painting for embroidery at Hitchin College, has been experimenting with her students using different types of paints and applicators. Several have severe arthritis in their hands. Colleges also usually have discounted rates for disabled students.

Embroidery is challenging and exciting and there is always something new to experiment with. It may be designing on the computer instead of with pen and paper, trying out different fabrics and threads or painting the fabric. This craft offers something for everyone and disability doesn't matter!

Lanarta, Gloriafillia and Heritage Stitchcraft are available from good department stores and needlecraft shops.
Hitchin College tel: (01462) 422882.





Exhibition

Adam Reynolds

Tony Heaton's exhibition at the Diorama Gallery in London consists of work from the last eight years



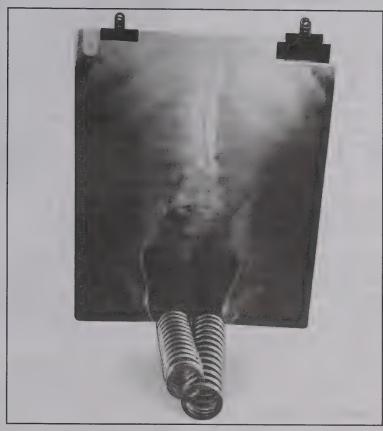
or so which varies greatly in look but has an underlying consistency of approach.

His work seems to begin from a serious and intelligent look at the world. It involves a careful consideration of the material he is using before he transforms it into something else.

Several early sculptures, represented by framed photographs, use a group of sections of tree trunk linked together by a strong geometric element such as a carved circle or a line of roofing lead. They question our relationship with the natural world in a contemplative, poetic way.

Much of the work speaks directly about his experience of disability. The early *Spring Back*, a favourite of mine, consists of a spinal x-ray and two motorcycle

Tony Heaton, a retrospective



Spring back: Heaton's spinal injury treated with humour and resilience

springs extending like legs from the pelvis. This is a direct reference to his spinal injury, yet it also speaks volumes about his humour and resilience.

A more recent example is *Great Britain from a Wheelchair*. He dismantled two old wheelchairs and reassembled them in the shape of the map of Great

Britain. This relationship between image and materials is simple and effective, reflecting wry humour and outrage.

Heaton's approach to disability has made him a favourite in the disability movement. The show includes overtly political work such as Wheelchair Entrance and Part "M" Door, and photos of Shaken Not Stirred – a performance piece in 1991 where he built a huge pyramid of charity collection cans and then ceremoniously destroyed it.

Dominating the centre of the gallery is *Buried Over Ground* (subtitled *An interpretation of disability oppression*) produced with the Armley Resource Centre in Leeds this year. A lifesize figure of sticks, straw and unfired clay lies on a sheet of glass suspended about a foot above what looks like a slab of sandstone with the impression of the body carved into it. About a dozen copper chimes mirror the shape of the body. A complex and powerful piece of work.

11am-6pm until 1 December. Tel: 0171-916 5467.

Television

Chris Davies

When a mainstream drama series adopts a disability story to which it returns in more than one



episode, it should be cause for celebration. However, the *Dangerfield* strand (from 20 October, BBC1) proves that quantity does not always equal quality.

The central character is a GP who works on police business as well. His son, at the beginning of this series, has left school and found a job in a hospital kitchen. Literally stumbling over a wheelchair user, he acts patronisingly towards Phil and then, guilt-stricken, tries to get to know him better. In the process, he meets Phil's friend Carol, another wheelchair user.

Dangerfield's son and Carol appear to be on the verge of a relationship. I suspect that this will not happen, but the story continues beyond my deadline this month.

So little time is devoted to the story (the disabled characters don't even have surnames) that it is really marginalised and somwhat clichéd. Still, Carol is played by disabled actress Julie Fernandez (ex *Eldorado*) and Jason Ward as Phil is also the genuine article. Good intentions, though, are not always enough.

As far as scheduling goes, the new series *From the Edge* (from 24 October, BBC2), is a misnomer. No longer out in the cold, to be moved around for sporting events and so on, it is shown at 7.30 every week. And it thoroughly deserves its slot, covering a wide range of topics with greater depth and maturity than ever before.

Another specialist programme, *Link*, has improved greatly. Now on Sunday mornings, it is a multi-itemed magazine, which includes regular studio discussions with presenter Mark Todd. At long last disability is getting the depth of coverage it deserves by our own programming.

I haven't forgotten *Disability Today*. The second edition had the same virtues as the first, but still lacked the range of reprsentation I talked about last month.

Next month I will be looking at Channel 4's daily series to promote British Sign Language, Four Fingers and a Thumb; Channel 4's new documentary series Inside Out and the end of Dangerfield. Children in Need is on 24 November. Let me know what you think of it.

Breaking the mould

The title says it all. This exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery (NPG) in London involves the visitor in exploring most of the materials and methods used in portrait sculpture.

It will appeal to people of all ages and abilities, and visually impaired people can share the same experiences. There is an audio tape and magnifying glass.

Two large tables are set out with interesting sculpture – unfortunately not for touching, due to conservation require-

Video top five

- 1. **OUTBREAK** (Warner): Dustin Hoffman battles a lethal virus.

 □
- 2. **DUMB AND DUMBER** (First Independent): Jim Carey pursues love and a suitcase of cash in this slapstick comedy. (N)
- 3. **TERMINAL VELOCITY** (Hollywood): Charlie Sheen goes ballistic in a tense action thriller. \Box
- 4. **ROB ROY** (MGM/UA): Liam Neeson dons a kilt for this Highland fling.
- 5. **POWER RANGERS: THE MOVIE** (Fox Guild): All American kids fight the forces of evil.

 □

Chart supplied by MIRB

ments. But directly in front of each sculpture are panels of most of the materials used, plus a clear, descriptive text. One can touch, smell and hold some materials, which are bolted down but slide up enough to judge the density and weight. Tools are placed alongside.

The various stages of moulding and casting are shown and we all measured our faces with calipers.

I noticed that visitors got so absorbed with the materials that touching the sculptures did not seem necessary.

Generally, I do not care for "feely boxes" and quiz touch panels as touch is not a game with me, but these ones were excellent and heightened one's awareness in a light-hearted way.

An outstanding sculpture was a huge wall portrait in mirror



Glass feelies: Gioya with Andrew Logan's Zandra Rhodes

glass of Derek Jarman, the film maker, by his friend Andrew Logan, topped by driftwood, some gathered by Jarman before his death.

Logan's portrait of designer Zandra Rhodes in resin with orange-pink, glass-stranded hair was curiously attractive. Outside the studio gallery was some amazing work by visually impaired people who attended the recent NPG workshop. Phone 0171-306 0055 for details of those on 2-3 December.

Gioya Steinke

Exhibition free, till 11 February.



White Socks, about one man's search for love via a dating agency, was the first play performed by Taking Liberties Theatre Company, the theatrical arm of the Wigan Disability Arts Forum, in November.

DISABILITIES

Online Disabilities
Information
Service

Disabilities Access is a free internet based information service for people with disabilities and those who care for them.

The service features: News, Directories of resources, Job Vacancies, Factsheets, Free Computer Software, Travel information, a Motoring section and Online shopping.

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To take a look at Disabilities Access Online point your Web browser at the URL: http://www.pavilion.co.uk/daccess
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Never stop wanting

Ann Darnbrough DN, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

Tinsel time is upon us again, and I shall be draping loads of bad taste decorations all round the house and loving it. I really enjoy the festive season and the tingle of excitement as the special days draw near. Perhaps I enjoy it all the more as I have had some very lonely Christmases. I now want to make the most of any fun that is going.

I can understand that people may dislike the commercialisation of Christmas. They may feel that a sacred festival has been hijacked. But can it be right to take such purist views and look down on our fellow revelling citizens?

Perhaps we should remember that it is not just a Christian festival. Plum pudding was invented by the ancient Celts to propitiate their god Dagda; Christmas parties are descended from the ancient Roman Saturnalia – also held in late December – at which revellers feasted, danced and wore funny hats; the idea of Christmas trees was pinched from pagan tree-worshippers in Germany, and the word "Yule" is derived from the Vikings' winter solstice festivals honouring Thor and Odin.

I don't know if you've noticed, but my picture at the head of

this column has changed a few times recently. I thought the one that appeared in the July edition was really soppy and I was glad to see the back of that. Although I am an agony aunt I don't like to see myself looking too auntyish! And then we had the more fun-type, untidy hair picture for a couple of months. Finally, DN took me in hand, grabbed a camera and took the picture you see here – it's almost a respectable image isn't it?

Is image everything? It certainly helps to determine who we are. The way we dress and present ourselves says a lot about us and I am sure the most important thing for each of us is to look natural. How easy is it for those of us who are disabled to look natural? Does the disability overshadow all else? It shouldn't, but from some of the letters I receive it seems to be an ever-present blight.

Give up the ghosts

Patricia, responding to Richard (he certainly started something when he wrote about the "howling pain of loneliness") sent me a bitter-sweet but entertaining letter in which she said:

"I am in my forties now, but it is difficult to forget the agony of my teens and twenties when I believed I was intrinsically 'unwantable'. I looked out on a world painted for me by TV, magazines and parents where everyone else was happy. I

A UNIQUE SERVICE!



The DN telephone counsellor, Lin Berwick, is a psychotherapeutic counsellor

and fully accredited Methodist local preacher. Disabled herself, she can give other disabled people and their carers advice and support on personal and spiritual problems. Talk to her on Monday afternoons, 1pm-5pm and Thursdays 6pm-10pm. Her telephone number is (01708) 477582.

DN's helpline is sponsored by British Telecom.

could clap my paws and sit in a corner and watch them. And that ghost haunts me even now saying you can have a nice little wheelchair in heaven. And a dear little stick. And a sweet little hearing aid.

"As you can see, the pain is still with me, and it's difficult not to blame everything on 'it'. After all, 'they' (able-bodied people) attach unhappiness to any label. Call it colour, race, gender or disability. They'll say anything rather than let me say 'actually, I'm wonderful'.

"I always felt, and indeed was told, 'don't you realise you can't'? Look, Richard, at the uncertainties of all the people who've said that. 'They' are projecting their inadequacies on to you. I bet you can and will find someone wonderful.

And I don't mean nice and kind. You might even get hurt. And give hurt. Why not? Other people do. My guy and I met when we had both given up hope of finding anyone, ever. He's also thirteen years younger than me - a toy boy. The ghost still haunts me, but this time I'm not going to take any notice.

"Richard, the important thing is, from what you say, that your biological needs are flourishing. That's a beginning. Don't ever stop wanting. Keep trying, and knock 'em dead, kid. You can do it. You want to. That's the important thing."

If we are to surmount the negative image able-bodied people have imposed on us and which influences how we see ourselves, we first of all have to develop our own positive selfimage and understand how these arise. This change of emphasis can be difficult because of the very real oppression experienced by disabled people. If everything and everyone around us tells us that we are worthless, useless, weak, without sexuality, unfit to be a parent, a worker, a politician, is it surprising that we begin to feel this way about ourselves?

Don't deny disability

We can never be whole people by denying our impairments they are part of us. As many people are now saying, we each need to be able to say that not only is my impairment part of me, but I'm proud of the whole of me including my impairment. Jane Campbell, ex-chair of the British Council of Disabled People (BCODP), once remarked:

"When I went to university, I went through the whole denial process: I wanted to be part of the able-bodied world with all its privileges, but it didn't work for me. It just wore me out".

The disability movement is growing stronger all the time. More and more disabled people are joining together to insist that their lives have value and that they want to be treated as equal citizens with equal rights. The image of each and every disabled person will improve as a result. When we feel good about ourselves, other people will too. But don't take it for granted. We all have to work at it. The sceptics who are doubtful may feel in tune with Gypsy Rose Lee's mother whose motto was: "God is love but get it in writing".

BCODP, Litchurch Plaza, Litchurch Lane, Derby DE24 8AA, tel: (01332) 295551.

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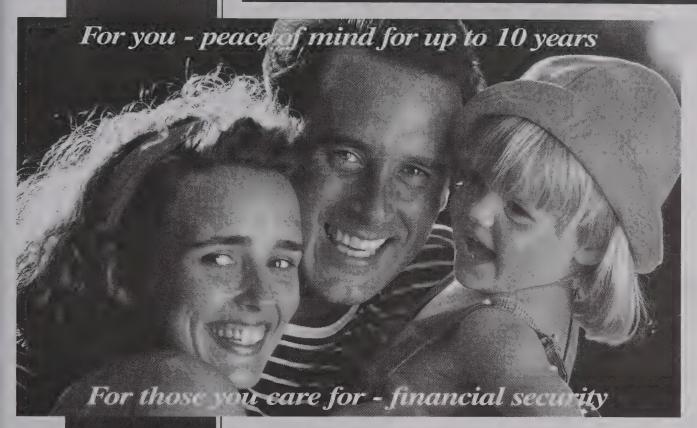
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Disabled Persons Insurance Services

The best stories are in Disability Now

Through 1995 DN has kept you informed with the latest news and the brightest features. Did you miss anything?

January

News First reading of Harry Barnes' Disabled Persons' Bill. Asthma linked to workplace. MP's bill to back carers. Features Benefits uprating chart. Why more disabled people are being struck off GP's lists. Holidays: adventures in the Himalayas, India, Australia, Hong Kong and the USA. Hobbies: spinning angora. Health and beauty. Complementary therapies: osteopathy.

February

News Gulf families fight back. Anti-discrimination bill published. Surrey care in crisis. Cancer fighting fungus found. Features Access at the London Boat Show. Profile of Rachel Hurst OBE. Voice activated computers. Motoring holidays. Relationships: love in residential centres, the deaf pub scene, glad to be gay. Complementary therapies: aromatherapy.

March

News Councils "cheat" on access. Barnes' Bill blighted. Motability boss recalled. Tory body backs rights commission. Children with learning disabilities excluded from schools because councils lack funds. **Features** Northern Ireland. Profile of Chris Flood, animal rights protester. Incontinence. Home improvements: trouble with builders, DIY and visual impairment, financing home conversions. Benefits advice. Hobbies: radio hams. Complementary therapies: acupuncture.

April

News Court battle on Porton Down. Motability in the spotlight. Eurostar bows to disabled travellers. Britain's carers unpaid and overstretched say reports. Tory predicts u-turn on Disability Discrimination Bill. Features Investigation into

Features Investigation into respite care. Checkout: electric wheelchairs and scooters. Gardening. Short breaks to Centre Parcs, Jersey and Paris. The Internet. Hobbies: painting.

May

News MPs probe "disabling" dips. Insurers' tactics under fire. Seamen fight for war pensions. Lottery blamed for charity losses.

Features The not so Ideal Home Exhibition. Banking by phone. Profile of Liz Thompson, campaigner fighting domestic violence against disabled women. London
Marathon. Checkout: ways to
relieve pressure sores. Hobbies:
model steam engines. Complementary therapies: craniosacral therapy. Post-19 living:
the difficulties faced by young
people with learning difficul-

June

News Schoolgirl fights for her rights. Legal aid fails disabled people. MP probes Motability. Study slams "too heavy" wheelchairs.

Features Local elections: disabled candidates stand for all parties. Irish Republic: eight page special. Summer special: barbecues, recipes and fashion.

July

News Car insurers told "play fair or else". Lord rebukes Motability. Arthritis care crisis. Parents in legal log jam with Department for Education's Special Needs Tribunal. House of Lords vote to amend Disability Bill.

Features The Chelsea Flower Show. Out and about: ballooning, boating and York Races. Profile of globe-trotting driver Geoff Smith. Post-19 living: the difficulties of obtaining communication aids. Checkout: bathrooms. Complementary therapies: chiropractice.

August

News Legal aid alert. "Motability Finance a scam". "Free my son", says mother of disabled lifer. Alistair Burt is the new Minister for Disabled People.

Features Mobility Roadshow. Profile of Helen Garrod, disabled students rights campaigner. Out and about: Blackpool Pleasure Beach, surfing, cycling and steam railways. Northern Naidex. Access: United Airlines' new Boeing 777. Complementary therapies: light and sound therapy.

September

News Dial-a-Ride chaos. Kids' training scheme faces axe.

Motability coffers empty. Court dashes benefit hopes. Cinemas "fire hazard" excuse. Labour starts disability group.

Features 50 years of the UN —

what has it done for you? Profile of former Japanese prisoner of war, John Donovan. Access at the Royal Tournament.

Careers: making it in journalism. Checkout: microtechnology for kids. Hobbie: making miniatures. Complementary therapy: some less well known therapies.

October

News PACT under fire. No money for physio for five-year-old. Legal aid move opposed. Thieves target orange badges. Features Community care. Post-19 living: job hunting. Me and my baby: pregnancy. Fashion over fifty. Edinburgh festival reviews. Profile of Kim Tserkezie, presenter of *Disability Today*. Student diary: freshers' week. Hobbies: rambling.

November

News Top college told "could do better". Motability slashes prices. Burt in back-room talks. Protest unites Belfast. Fascists surf 'net. Dial-a-Ride drivers take action. 1 in 8 makes us mainstream.

Features Party conferences. Profile of Ronald Davis, the millionaire who couldn't read. Southampton Boat show. London Naidex: mobility, microtech, home and kids aids. Me and my baby: birth.

Each back issue costs £1. Please send an A4 SAE to DN address on page 2, stating which issue you would like and which stories you are interested in. If the issue is no longer available, we will send a photocopy.

UNISON SOUTH EAST REGION
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This Network Day is open to all Unison South East region members who are involved in one of the four self organised groups, or Unison. Black members, lesbians and gay men or disabled members in the South East region (Sussex, Surrey and Kent).

The Network Day will give members of all self organised groups the chance to get together to discuss issues in common and ways of working together more effectively.

For further information about this event, about self organisation in the region or membership of Unison, the public sector trade union, please contact Ranjit Kaur, Regional Women's Officer on 01737 733300 or at Glen House, High Street, Banstead, Surrey SM7 2LH.

This venue is wheelchair accessible, an induction loop will be provided. Signer, meeting details in other formats or other access requirements on request.

NB. The next meeting of the Region's Disabled Members Group will be held on Saturday 9 December from 10.30am until 2pm. (Venue to be arranged). Further details from Ranjit Kaur (address above).

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Poets that know it!-

Congratulations to three budding Byrons who have won our 5 November poetry competition. First prize of a £25 WH Smith voucher goes to nine-year-old Ruth Madeley from Bolton. Ruth has spina bifida and is a parttime wheelchair user. She

Flying saucers, golden rain, Catherine wheels too! All these things that light up

Will bring excitement to you. I hold a sparkler in my hand I make patterns in the sky Eat baked potatoes, munch treacle toffee

Watch those rockets fly high.

Well done Laura Browning aged ten from Romsey in Hampshire. She wins second prize of a £15 token. Laura has cerebral palsy and loves to write poems and stories on her computer. She

Rockets whizz, Catherine wheels whirl and spin, We gather round the bonfire in the frosty air, It crackles as the flames rise up and slowly our guy topples forward losing his hat. We hold our sparklers with outstretched hands. Everything is shadowy and

Until the colours light up the sky.

Third prize of a £10 token goes to Steven Hands from Birmingham who is 13. Here's Steven's poem:

Flames of red and golden Sparklers and bangers on Bonfire Night Fireworks that glow so

Oh how I love Bonfire Night!

Thanks to WH Smith for the prizes. If you fancy yourself as the next Wordsworth or if you have a funny story to tell, send it to DN at the address on page two and you could see your name in print!

We've got it taped

Did you know that DN is available on tape? contact Helen Crow on 0171-383 4575 for more information.

Create-a-caption (and win £10!)

National Lottery star Anthea Turner says cheese for the National Deaf Children's Society in a charity snooker challenge. She launched their winning shot for a place in the £300,000 Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge in January.

What does Anthea think of the whole thing? Has Mystic Meg given her some winning tips? Send your answers to Create-a-caption competition, Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.



Trivia questions

1. Which famous Spanish artist

2. Which European country's

currency bears pictures from the children's story The Little

began with experiments to aid

5. Which Scandinavian country

6. Eric Cantona plays for which

7. Who starred as a doctor on the run in the film The Fugitive?

8. Who is the patron saint of

9. Which Magic Roundabout

character was partial to sugar

10. Which London-born poet

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wrote Jerusalem?

3. What is a cantaloupe? 4. Which famous invention

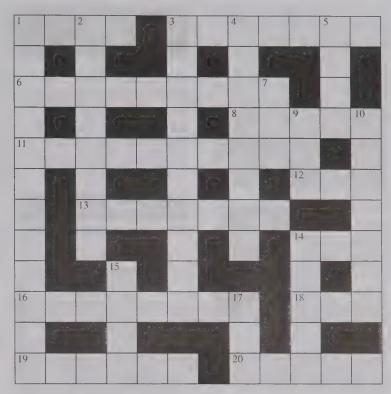
is famous for its fjords?

painted Guernica?

deaf people?

football team?

Ireland?



DN's crossword

Answers on page 31

ACROSS

1. Slang term for unemployment benefit or a United States Senator (4)

3. Insulation or packaging (7)

6. Taunt fell (anag)

8. Belgian town (5)

11. Irish politician (3,7)

12. Finish (3)

13. Scolding (7)

14. The Latin word for God (3)

16. World wide computer communication system (8)

18. Speak untruthfully (3)

19. Master (anag)

20. Symbol or sign (5)

DOWN

1. See two down

2,1. Phrase meaning mental disability (8,12)

COMPILED BY REBECCA REYNOLDS

3. Famous Duke or type of boot (10)

4. Hanging (8)

5. High ___ (film) (4)

7. Definite article (3)

9. Organ of sense (3)

10. Top deal (anag)

14. One of Dr Who's enemies (5)

15. Surrender (4)

17. Small drink or very young child (3)

Christmas crackers



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What does Father Christmas call his money?



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TODAY

Disability Now December 1995

Congratulations to Ms Ann James, Ms K Pearson, Mrs S I Rowe, Mrs F Hill, Mrs A Hutton and Mr F Johnson who win copies of The Gift of Dyslexia by Ronald Davis.

Appointments

Peter Mansell (right), formerly Gateopener project development manager at Scope, is the new chief executive of the Spinal



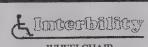
Injuries Association. SIA has been restructured and he sees his role as helping the organisation "play to its strengths".

Neil Betteridge has been appointed head of projects and campaigns at RADAR, while Caroline Gooding leaves RADAR to become director of the Disability Law Service. Pauline Graham is leaving Scope's Campaigns department to join the National Council of Voluntary Organisations as policy development officer. Graham Faulkner has been appointed general secretary of the Leonard Cheshire Foundation.

Info

The Rathbone Community **Industry National Information** Line offers confidential and impartial advice to parents of children with special educational needs, carers and professionals. Tel: 0161-236 1877.

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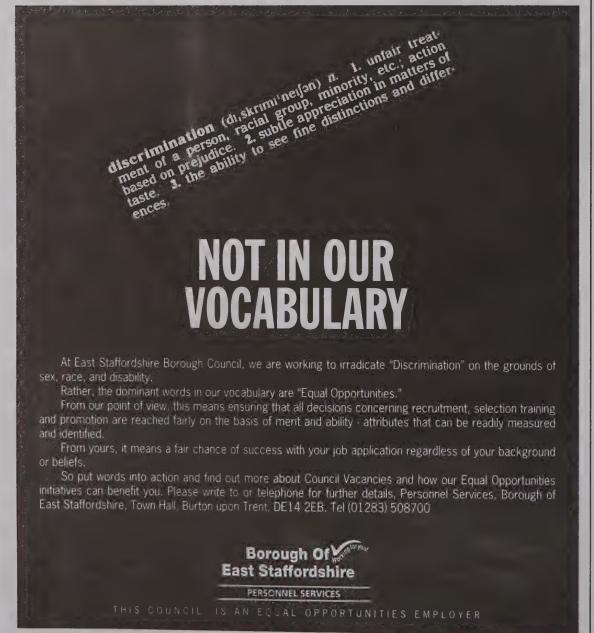
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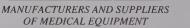
Recruitment



More recruitment ads on page 29

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BRINGING TOGETHER PHYSICALLY disabled and able bodied people between 20-35 that are fed up with trying to get into other people's social circles - let's make one of our own! Contact Sarah in Avon. Box No. 847

KENT LADY, slightly disabled, aged 46 but young at heart. I enjoy many hobbies and life. I would like to meet an honest and genuine male, 40 plus for friendship or relationship. Box No. 848

FORMER STUDENTS at Puckle Hill (1956/57) and former members of the London '62 club founded by Bill Hargreaves, please get in touch if you want a natter or someone to moan to. Write to David Beebee, 36 Pilgrims Walk, Worthing, Sussex or tel: (01903) 530243.

MAN IN FIFTIES with learning disability looking to meet a woman with similar interests. I enjoy listening to music, ballet, parks, eating out and generally having a good time! All genuine replies will be answered. Box No. 849

LIVELY, BUT FED-UP female, aged 24, wants inspiration and fun with openminded leftie man. Must be genuine, emotionally mature and friendly. If we get on, will become clear how loving I can be. Box No. 850

GOOD LOOKING PARAPLEGIC, 36, professional with own home, seeks lady for lasting relationship, hopefully, as has been hurt in the past. Have a good sense of humour and very outgoing. Will do anything and go anywhere. Send photo please. Box No. 851

TO ALL FEMALES, I am looking for penfriends with a view to maybe forming a relationship. I am disabled and divorced with two children. A photo would be nice, but not essential. I sometimes use a wheelchair. I am a car driver. Everyone welcome to reply. I will reply to all letters received. Box No. 852

FEMALE MATURE STUDENT, mid 30s. Fedup with all study and no fun. Dreading spending Christmas and New Year alone. Seeking affectionate, romantic, caring male for serious, intimate relationship, hopefully leading to marriage. Genuine replies only please. All will be answered. West Lothian/Fife/Edinburgh/central Scotland areas preferred. Box No. 853

36-YEAR-OLD triplegic male. Fantastic sense of humour. Interests too many to list. Would like female penpal who knows where it might lead! Preferred age 18 plus. Box No. 854

To reply to a personal ad indicate the box number and mark the envelope private and confidential. If you do not it will be opened. Send to DN, address on page 2.

For sale cont.

BRITAX SPECIAL NEEDS car seat. Suit child aged one to 11. 11 months old. Condition as new. Cost £295. Will accept £160. Tel: (01234) 740429,

NISSAN VANETTE DIESEL. 1994. 9,000 . miles only. Luxury conversion. Three seats plus wheelchair, Ricon electrical tail lift, alarm and stereo with four speakers. Current cost over £14,000. Fully serviced. As new. £11,700 ono. Tel: (01312) 293116

LARK FOUR ELECTRIC scooter. All accessories. One-year-old. Cost £2,350 new. Any reasonable offer accepted. Tel: 0181-575 0201.

CAR CHAIR. This wheelchair lifts the disabled person plus chair into car by push button hand control and fits in normal passenger position. Fits most cars. Price £3,460. Will sell £2,200 ono. Tel: (01617)

STERLING MICRO THREE scooter with charger. Cost £1,200 new. Hardly used. Will accept £600 ono. Tel: (01296) 86139 (Aylesbury).

RASCAL ELECTRIC MOBILITY scooter. Excellent condition. £500. Tel: (01892)

SMALL VW MINIBUS. Two wheelchairs plus four passengers. Manual gears. 1990. Underfloor lift. 37,000 miles. Garaged. Immaculate. £8,000 ono. Tel: 0181-948

THERAPOSTURE ADJUSTAMATIC BEDS. Two 30in singles bolted together to form a double, complete with headboards. £500 the pair. Tel: 0181-462 5586.

PARKER CARE ARMCHAIR. Adjustable footrest, back and seat rise/tilt. £400. Tel: 0181-462 5586.

KINAIR AIR THERAPY mattress. Cost over £3,000. Bargain at £950. Roho cushion 17x17in. As new. £110. Tel: (01869)

AS NEW, BEIGE coloured electric armchair. Multi-position including prone. Cost £1,300. Sell at £950. Tel: (01584) 831671.

CL10 1.4 1992 (J). 15,000 miles. MOT to July 1996. Kempf hand accelerator. Hand brake, instructor brake, power assisted steering, automatic. £7,250. Tel: (01302)

LOOEEZE LIFTING TOILET seat. Still under guarantee. Immaculate condition. Little used. Price new £300. Will accept £150. Tel: 0181-668 4790.

JAN REHAB PUSHCHAIR. Large size. Age five to ten years with raincover. £400. Tel: (01705) 642647.

NISSAN PRAIRIE E REG. MOT March. Brotherwood conversion. wheelchair access via ramp. Excellent condition. £8,500 ono. Tel: (01707)

WHEELCHAIR. lightweight, easy to transport. As new £850 ono. Tel: (01707) 872497.

SUPER SCOOTER LARK eight. New in May '95. £2,500 ono. Tel: (01635) 42468.

ELAP ROTATING CAR SEAT. To fit Vauxhall Corsa. Turns and slides out. Little used. £250 ono. Can be adapted for most cars. Tel: (01733) 571502.

ROVER 416 AUTOMATIC with power assisted steering. H reg. Adaptations: RH pull/push choice, L/R foot accelerator. £4,500 ono. For quick sale. More details tel: (01895) 630929.

VOLKSWAGEN TRANSPORTER 1990. Devon conversion. Automatic. Seats eight. Can carry two wheelchairs concealed under floor lift. Low mileage. Taxed. Excellent condition. £7,800. Tel: 0181-360 1688.

SEAT TERRA 903CC. K reg, white, genuine 3,300 miles. One owner. As new. Regularly serviced by dealer. Adapted for a disabled person. £4,750. Tel: 0181-989 2443.

ATTENDANT WHEELCHAIR. Six-month-old Days medical wheelchair with adjustable arms. £350 ono. Tel: (01284) 752925 (Suf-

AUTOCHAIR WHEELCHAIR CARRIER. £600 ono, Tel: (01726) 850842.

RENAULT FINESS K REG. Diesel, four passengers plus wheelchair. Very good condition. £6,950 ono. Tel: (01343) 870264

ELAP CAR SEAT for Peugeot 306. Used for ten months. Colour blue polka. Will accept £200. Tel: 0181-8684627.

SINGLE ELECTRIC BED as new. White and brass with mattress. £500. Tel: (01214)

FIBREGLASS PORTABLE RAMPS never

used. £50. Tel: (01214) 72722.

TRAVELLER WHEELCHAIR. One-year-old. £550 ono. D Thomas, tel: (01159) 223422.

BATH NIGHT L7006 bath lift. One-yearold. Cost £695. Now £400. Tel: (01865) 862717 (Oxford).

RATCLIFFE RFA 300 wheelchair lift. 300Kg. Ex standard roof transit. In full working order. C1984. Price £400. Fitting available. Tel: (01483) 233640 (Guild-

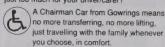
PRAIRIE MARK ONE Brotherwood conversion 1.8. SG metallic blue, D reg, MOT September 1996. 83,000 miles. £3,750 ono. Tel: (01484) 683876 (west York-

ADJUSTAMATIC MASSAGE BED. 3ft. £500 ono. Tel: (01614) 302882 (Stockport).

M REG AUTOMATIC Chairman Escort Elite. Self lowering suspension for rear access. FSH 7,000 miles. Perfect condition. Genuine reason for sale. £1,650 ono. Tel: (01724) 276404 (home), (01724) 282028 ext 424 (work).

ARE YOU A WHEELCHAIR USER?

Is getting out of your chair into your car just too much for your driver/carer?



Ring us FREE on 0800 220878 for your full colour information pack.

GOWRINGS MOBILITY

Fostering and adoption

NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

BEN and PAUL Need New Families

Ben (5) is a lively boy who needs extra attention. He is very endearing, with a ready

Paul (3) is behind in his development and will benefit from individual attention. He is a

very friendly, cuddly boy. The brothers have a medical condition which affects their development, but

Could you give either of the boys a new home?

For more information phone Steve Riddell on (0191) 200 6161 or write to: North Tyneside Council, Children's Services, Camden Street, North Shields NE30 1NW.

Recruitment

Life's too short.

As a Fast Stream entrant into the Civil Service, you'll be totally, personally involved in issues that directly affect couple's lives. Helping an African economy towards self-sufficiency, reinforcing our commitments made at the Earth Summit in Rio, or helping to ensure that the "Health of the Nation" initiative really does live up to its promise.

Addressing and resolving the great public issues of the day is work that's as real as work can be. Which is one of the reasons why we welcome people who bring some experience which can be put to use in dealing with these issues.

But if that aspect of the Fast Stream surprises you, others are probably more familiar. Yes, everything you've heard about it being tough to get into is true. You do need to be an excellent analytical and creative thinker (which puts the required educational qualification of at least a second class honours degree or equivalent well within your reach). You do need to be able to communicate and negotiate with many different people. For all your own ability, you also need to nise that great achievements nearly always come from teams.

But you don't need the things that many people still associate with Fast Stream Entry - a public school or Oxbridge education being just two. Because you'll be joining the organisation that was practising equality of opportunity long before the phrase was even invented, and whose selection process, while it's demanding and comprehensive, has been designed down to the last detail to be scrupulously fair to everyone.

Many civil servants working at the highest levels and handling awe-inspiring responsibilities joined as Fast Stream entrants from the position you're probably in now - at something of a crossroads in their careers. Like them you need to take that first step - getting and reading our brochure and application form. Do it soon. Life's too short to wait for your real career to begin.

Write to Recruitment & Assessment Services, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 7JB, or telephone 01256 468551. Applications must be returned by 5th January 1996. Please quote reference A11DN for further details and an application form. In addition, for a PC-based self-assessment program that gives you an idea of whether or not you're cut out for Fast Stream entry, please quote PCDISK.

Depending on your qualifications and relevant experience your salary will be in the range £13,396 - £24,589 with increases related to performance. A limited number of Executive Officer posts may also be available.

The Civil Service is an Equal Opportunity Employer, and is whole-heartedly committed to action plans to improve the progress of women, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities. We would particularly welcome applications from people in these groups, who are all under-represented at this level.



More recruitment ads on page 30

Holidays

Llandeilo, West Wales 1994 HOLIDAY CARE WINNER

3 cottages, all wheelchair accessible. Rural location and overlooked by 12th century castle. Ideally situated for ixploring South and West Wales. Each cottage sleeps 4, central heating, CTV, games/fitness rooms, laundry, ixtensive grounds. Open all year, short breaks available. el: Catherine McLoughlin (01558) 823 059 for brochure.

PENROSE BURDEN NORTH CORNWALL

1992 Holiday Care Award Winners Holiday Cottages designed for wheelchair users and their families. Rural setting with superb views. Dogs welcome. Wood burning stoves and daily meal service.

Please ring or write for colour brochure. R&N Hall, Penrose Burden, St Breward, Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 4LZ. Telephone Bodmin (01208) 850277 or 850617.

Winged Fellowship - quality holidays and respite care for people with severe physical disabilities. We operate five purpose-built respite care centres at: Jubilee Lodge Chigwell; Sandpipers, Southport; Crabhill House, Redhill; Netley Waterside House, Southampton; and Skylarks, Nottingham. We also provide overseas and discovery holidays. For full brochure please contact Winged Fellowship, Angel House, 20-32 Pentonville Road, London N1 9XD or telephone 0171-833 2594.

Brittany Cottage to let. Fully adapted for wheelchair use. Good access to beaches. Sleeps up to 6. Details C Hodgson. Tel: (01924) 454300.

Xmas and New year special offer Ambleside – Lake District Exclusive det bungalow and cottages. 5 min from lake and shops. Convenient to all areas of lakes. Tel: 015394 31733. From £200 per week. Reg. NAS CAT 3.

MAR Y SOL - TENERIFE

Wheelchair accessible apartments. Heated pool with hoist, restaurant, poolside bar, equipment hire. Ring today for cheapest prices on flights. Video available. ALGARVE - PORTUGAL

Wheelchair friendly luxury villas in Portugal with swimming pools or small friendly hotel with adapted rooms. Sue Abbott, 123 Coppermill Road, Wraysbury, Staines, Middx. TW19 5NX. Tel: (01753) 685718.

MOLD, NORTH WALES: Luxury, wheelchair accessible bungalow. Sleeps 4/5. All mod cons Two bathrooms, private south-facing garden. Ideal base. £250 weekly. Brochure: Mrs Dowling, 23 Gleneagles Road, Great Sutton South Wirral L66 4NF (Tel: 0151 339 5316)

EVERYTHING IS WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE AT BLAGDON FARM COUNTRY HOLIDAYS DEVON

New, luxury bungalows, overlooking 2.5 acre lake and set in 38 acres picturesque countryside. Nature trail, adventure playground, pet's corner and large games room. For brochure contact Pauline & Tony Blight, Ashwater, Beaworthy, DEVON EX21 5DF. Phone 01409 211509. Fax: 01409 211510.

GLEBE FARM HOLIDAYS SELF CATERING COTTAGES FOR THE DISABLED

Glebe Farm, Charles Brayford Nr. Barnstaple, North Devon EX32 7PT Telephone: 0598 710241 Open all year. Wheelchair accessible Equipment available.

Tourist Board 4 keys and commended.
Please contact: Valerie Boddington

Property for sale

DETACHED CHALET BUNGALOW. Four bedrooms, dressing room, lounge, dining room, kitchen/diner, large bathroom, shower room, utility room, study, cloakroom, double glazing, gas central heating, garage, gardens, pleasant village location. 15 mins from M1, 45 mins from London. £129,950. Photo and details tel: (01525) 210409 (Stanbridge, Bedfordshire).

GLOUCESTER FOUR BEDROOM house. Recently adapted for wheelchair users including lift, ramps to front and rear entrances, electrical points to wheelchair height, lovely rear garden. Excellent local amenities. £125,000. Tel: 0181-462 2537.

THREE-BEDROOM GAS central heated house. Sun lounge designed for disabled people. Heated shower/toilet fittings and switches wheelchair height. Ramps. Garden with fishpond and waterfall. 3 Deanpoint, Westgate, Morecambe, £63,000. Tel: (01524) 832823.

Recruitment cont.

LOTHIAN INTEGRATION PROJECT

The Lothian Integration Project is a new Urban Aid funded initiative, sponsored by Lothian Regional Council's Community Education Department. The main aim of the



project is to provide opportunities where young physically disabled people can assert their independence, increase their confidence and self-esteem and exercise choice within their current lifestyle.

OUTREACH WORKERS X3

Salary NJC Pt 23 to 31 (£13,584 to £17,667)

We are seeking three skilled and dynamic Outreach Workers who will work closely with individuals and groups of physically disabled and non-disabled young people. It is anticipated that the successful candidates will hold a qualification in social work, community education or a directly relevant profession.

Further details and an application form are available from: Phab Scotland, Wellgate House, 200 Cowgate, Edinburgh EH1 1NQ. Tel: 0131-225 3559. Closing date for applications: Wednesday 20 December 1995. Interviews: 11 and 12 January 1996.

Phab Scotland is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from people with physical disabilities. Registered charity no. SCO16015.

FOR THE BEST IN TEACHING HEAD STRAIGHT FOR THE HEART



OPPORTUNITIES IN PRIMARY/ SECONDARY/ SPECIAL SCHOOLS

It's only fitting that one of the largest education departments in the country offers a vast range of teaching opportunities.

We can provide newly qualified and experienced teachers with a whole spectrum of career options in primary, secondary and special education. Whatever your choice Birmingham Education Service can offer you:

- in-service training programmes
- the allocation of a personal mentor for newly qualified teachers
- an induction programme for first year teachers
- excellent promotion prospects within a progressive, innovative

What's more, you'll be based in a city that is fast becoming an international centre whose facilities include:

- comprehensive road, rail and air links
- an outstanding variety of shopping and leisure facilities
- major cultural centres including the NEC, International Convention Centre, National Indoor Arena, art galleries, museums and the Midland Arts Centre

If you'd like to find out more, please phone for a copy of our brochure and an application form on 0121-235 2289/2369/4974 (24 hour answerphone), minicom service available on 0121-785 0576.

Also available on tape, braille or large print.

The closing date for primary applications is

31 January 1996. Interviews for the primary 'pool' will commence in March 1996. For the Secondary Database, general applications are invited and these will be circulated to our schools, there is no closing date for Secondary.

<u>Birmingham City Council</u>



Services

Keith Sumner Building Services



Specialising in • Alterations & adaptations for disabled people • Wheel in showers, ramps, extensions etc. For more information or a free quotation call 0161 794 4208

Disability Now is not responsible for claims made in the advertisements it prints and all readers are advised to check claims with the advertisers before relying on them.

WFAD (Waltham Forest Association of Disabled People) wish to appoint a disabled person as a

Development Worker

salary £13,788 (SO1 pt 29) inc olw, for a 28

You will initiate and develop contacts with disability groups in Waltham Forest. You will work to develop

support groups to meet the needs and concerns of disabled people from all communities. You will promote consultation with disabled people and their organisations. You will develop WFAD's information services (including the Newsletter and Bulletin) to meet the information needs of WFAD's membership and other local disabled people.

Some experience of carrying out development and outreach work is essential. Current areas of development work include work with Asian disabled women, mental health service users and deaf people. You must be able to demonstrate an awareness of disability issues and an understanding of the various concerns of disabled people from different communities. Experience of producing newsletters, articles and reports is

THIS POST IS ONLY OPEN TO DISABLED PEOPLE. WE PARTICULARLY WELCOME APPLICATIONS FROM DISABLED PEOPLE FROM BLACK AND ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES.

The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Friday 12th January 1996. Interviews will be held week beginning 22nd January. For an information pack and application form, please contact: WFAD, Units 13/14 Alpha Business Centre, South Grove, Walthamstow, London E17 7NX. Tel: 0181 509 0812 (voice & minicom). Information about this post is available on tape. WFAD's office is fully accessible.

WFAD is an Equal Opportunities Employer

HOUNSLOW VOLUNTARY SECTOR

We're **Shopping** Around For **Enthusiastic** People

The Voluntary Sector in Hounslow is committed to providing quality services for all its residents. With increased pedestrianisation of town centres, we're introducing a Shopmobility scheme to provide wheelchairs for people with limited mobility. The scheme will be registered as a charity and will be open during shopping hours from 10am-5pm, Monday to Saturday, plus special occasions such as late night Christmas

Shopmobility Co-Ordinator

£19,341 - £20,415 inclusive (job share considered)

You'll help publicise the scheme ready for its launch in April 1996, setting up record systems and organising volunteers. Once up-and running, you'll administer the scheme; managing staff, assisting customers, liaising with retailers and applying for funding to bodies such as the National Lottery and charitable

Enthusiastic, imaginative and self-motivated, you'll be a first class communicator with proven management skills. Experience of working with elderly or disabled people is essential. Reference: SHOP/01.

Shopmobility Assistant

£5,529 - £6,235 inclusive for 18 hours per week

You'll provide day-to-day support in all aspects of the scheme, helping with wheelchairs, taking bookings and completing the necessary documentation.

We're looking for a bright, outgoing person with good typing and clerical skills, basic computer literacy and an understanding of our client group. **Reference: SHOP/02.**

Both positions will be offered initially on a one year contract and will involve some weekend and evening working. The successful applicant for the Co-Ordinator post would be expected to start March 1996, and for the assistant post in April

Applications are welcome from both disabled and non-disabled people. However, to improve employment opportunities for disabled people, first priority will be given to disabled candidates.

For details (no CVs please) telephone 0181 572 0488 quoting the appropriate reference or write to Hounslow Volunteer Bureau, Advice Centre, 45 Treaty Centre, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 1ES. Closing date: 5th January 1996. Interviews will be held on Eriday.

Interviews will be held on Friday 19th January 1996.

We operate a no smoking policy.

Funded by Hounslow

Wanted

VW CARAVELLE OR Ford Transit. Automatic hand controls. For two wheelchair users. Good condition only. Tel: (01202)

CAR WITH RAMP for wheelchair. Condition immaterial. Will pay up to £5,000. Tel: (01275) 854442 (Bristol area).

For sale cont.

GOWRINGS ESCORT CHAIRMAN E reg. FSH 12 months MOT. 40,000 miles. Reliable. £3,995. Tel: (01255) 815987 (Essex).

BRAND NEW WHEELCHAIR. Sportopedia. In black with purple trim system. Everest Jennings. Has various attachments. For more information tel: (01536) 401888.

Recruitment cont.



INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY **ADVOCACY**

Require the following:

Team Leader

£19,659-£21,357 (APT&C pt35-37)

Temporary 6 month contract with view to future funding

To manage a developing organisation and to promote advocacy throughout the area.

Children and Young People's Advocacy worker

£16,575-£17,667 (APT&C pt 29-31) pro rata 28 hrs/week

To develop a new and innovative children and young people's advocacy scheme. Closing date: 22nd January 1996.

We particularly welcome applications from disabled people. Assert is working towards becoming an equal opportunities employer.

For application pack please contact: Assert, 46 Easton Business Centre, Felix Rd, Easton, Bristol BS5 OHE.

Company limited by Guarantee Registered Charity no. 297378.



The Enham Resource Centre is one of the first units of its type in this ountry geared to assessing and developing the abilities and potential of people with special needs and helping them to secure long term employment.

A new enterprise is to be set up to provide a range of receivables management and credit services to the business community.

Exciting opportunities for self-motivated individuals to develop and market these services now exist for the following personnel:

MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Sound experience in a credit or finance field with experience of developing a customer base and quality service.

TRAINING AND OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR

To be responsible for systems development, delivery of services focused on customer care and to take a leading role in staff development and training.

The Enham Resource Centre is a division of The Enham Trust, which is a registered charity. This project is funded through support from Hampshire Training and Enterprise Council Limited and the European Social Fund.

Please send a CV to Mrs Lindsay Brewer. The Enham Trust, Enham Alamein, Andover, Hants SP11 6JS or for further information please telephone Mrs Diane Mabey on 01344 826397.



Community Forum Officer

£20,181 - £23,238 p.a.

The Council is committed to high quality services responsive to the needs of residents and the Human Resource Strategy Unit is at the forefront of strategy development for employment and equal opportunities in support of this. You will be expected to assist members of the local community to play their full part in the development, implementation and monitoring of the Council's Equal Opportunities Policies through Equalities Committees, increasing the involvement of black and minority ethnic people, disabled people and women.

To be successful you will:-

- · have experience of working proactively with the community, supporting community representatives, developing responses to equality issues;
 - understand the issues and consequences of inequality;
- · have a relevant qualification or at least three years of close community consultation.

Application forms and further details are available from and returnable to Corporate Resources, CRED Resource Unit, Room 419, Civic Centre 1, Huddersfield HD1 2NS, telephone (01484) 443453 or 24 hour answerphone (01484) 443489. Closing date is 15 December 1995 and interviews will be held mid-January.



KIRKLEES - STRIVING TO ACHIEVE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES APPLICATIONS FROM JOB SHARERS WELCOME



C

E

PROJECT FOR ADVICE, COUNSELLING & EDUCATION

PACE, the project for advice, counselling and education, are looking for volunteer lesbian and gay counsellors, to do 2 hours per week. Fortnightly group supervision

We currently have spaces for older counsellors, disabled counsellors, and counsellors from the black, Asian, or minority ethnic communities.

PACE is also offering bursaries for black or Asian lesbians and gay men, and for disabled lesbians and gay men, for counselling training. The prospective bursary applicant would need to be in at least the second year of a recognised diploma training, and with some prior counselling experience.

For more information and application forms for any of the above, please call PACE on 0171-700 1323.

Registered charity no. 801271.

Motor insurance

The "Access" Policy

A unique contract specially designed for owners of vehicles converted to carry wheelchair passengers.

Substantial premium savings up to 30% possible.

For a quote please contact CHARD INSURANCE SERVICES (REGISTERED BROKERS), 15 HOLYROOD STREET, CHARD TA20 2AH. 01460 61373/62148

Car rental

Now for the first time!

hairman' Car Rental from £29 per day



Freephone 0800 220878 or 01635 529500

To advertise your vacancies/courses please contact Richard Gresham, Kingslea Press Limited, 12 Dock Offices, Surrey Quays Road, London SE16 2XU. Tel: 0171-252 1362. Fax: 0171-237 8019.

WEST MIDLANDS ARTS

THE REGIONAL ARTS BOARD FOR THE WEST MIDLANDS PROVIDES FUNDING AND SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS, CRAFTS AND MEDIA

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR Disabled Artists in the West Midlands

West Midlands Arts is inviting applications for the above post for a six month fixed term appointment to establish a two to three year programme of action in support of disabled artists in the region.

The contract will focus on developing the proposal for a regional development co-ordinator and a network of development workers, ensuring accountability and ownership for the programme, drawing up a fund-raising plan, commencing a prescribed public relations and communication strategy, advising on training, and advising West Midlands Arts on future action.

The sum of £7,000 excluding travel and expenses is offered for this work.

West Midlands Arts is an Equal Opportunities Employer and we particularly welcome applications from people with disabilities and from individuals of Afro-Caribbean or Asian origin.

To receive a copy of the brief, please write enclosing an A4 self-addressed envelope to Beverley Parker, at:

WEST MIDLANDS ARTS, 82 GRANVILLE STREET, BIRMINGHAM BI 2LH.

Closing date for receipt of applications is 26 January 1996. THIS IS A RE-ADVERTISEMENT, PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1. Dole 3. Wadding 6. Flatulent 8. Ghent 11. Ian Paisley 12. End 13. Nagging 14. Deo 16. Internet 18. Lie 19. Stream 20. Token

DOWN: 1. Difficulties 2. Learning 3. Wellington 4. Dangling 5. Noon 7. The 9. Eye 10. Tadpole 14. Dalek 15. Cede 17. Tot

Deadlines for January issue: booking by 7 December, camera ready artwork/copy by 11 December.

TRIVIA QUIZ **ANSWERS**

- 1. Picasso 2. France 3. Melon
- 4. Phone 5. Norway
- 6. Manchester United 7. Harrison Ford 8. St Patrick
- 9. Dougal 10. William Blake

DisabilityNow

- News
- Holidays

and much more...

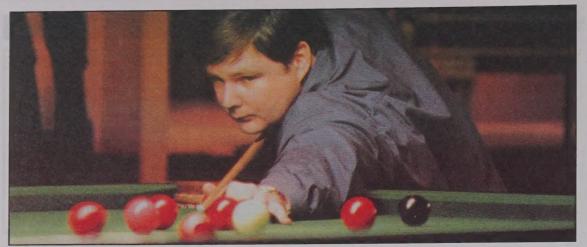
- Arts
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- Sport
- Benefits
- Motoring
- Equipment

Are you one of the 80,000 readers keeping up-to-date with Disability Now every month? If not, don't miss out. Fill in this coupon now.

Individuals at home addr	ess – £14 (12 issi	ies) 🗌 £2	7 (24 issues) [
Professionals/organisati	ons – £19 (12 iss	ues) 🗌 £3	7 (24 issues) [
NAME				
ADDRESS				
		.POSTCODE.		

Please return to Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, FREEPOST 17, London W1E 3HU. Cheques should be made payable to Disability Now.

> Multiple copy rates available on request. Tel: 0171-383 4575.



GRAHAM BOOL

mobility

Hotshot Scots

Scotland shot their way to victory in the team trophy at the National Snooker Championships for people with disabilities, at Stirling, in October.

With 40 points, the Scots handed out a tartan trouncing to the opposition. Their nearest rivals, the North West team,

Potting for the Scots Matt Duffy

lagged 18 points behind.

Matt Duffy, Alex Harvey and Zena Latcham of Scotland won their individual group finals along with Anthony Southern of North West and Maureen Logan of the Northern Region.

Southern achieved the highest break of the championships, organised by the British Sports Association for the Disabled and the Scottish Sports Association for the Disabled.

Duffy won his group for the fourth time, in a nail-biting match against Roy Kimberly which went right to the black ball.

"It was a really close one," said Duffy. "Being the only big tournament in Scotland makes it even better."



Fourteen-year-old Emily Jennings from Melton Mowbray (above) grabbed two golds, two silvers and two bronzes at the European Disabled Swimming Championships in Perpignan in September. "I'm very pleased. I wasn't really sure how I would do. I was just hoping to get a medal," said Emily, the youngest member of the Great Britain team. Her next goal is to qualify for Atlanta. The classy Brits took 36 gold medals to top the championships, 11 ahead of their closest challengers Germany.

Atlanta bound

Britain could only manage fourth place at the Wheelchair Rugby World Championships in Nottwil, Switzerland, in October but qualified for the Paralympics in Atlanta next year.

After managing a couple of wins against Switzerland and Holland in their pool event, the Brits lost by 38-20 to the tournament favourites the USA.

In a play-off to decide third place, Britian lost 41-28 to New Zealand.

In the final between the USA and Canada, the USA took the honours with a win of 41-36.

"It's great to make it to the paralympics. Now we've got the chance to build on it and take some medals," said team captain Keith Jones.

FAMILY SIZED COMFORT.

MOTABILITY CONTRACT HIRE AND HIRE
PURCHASE SCHEMES. COURTESY SERVICING.

(EVEN WITH ZERO INITIAL
RENTAL, OUR STANDARD NEXIA COMES
WITH TREATMENT THAT'S ANYTHING BUT.)

Daewoo have made a commitment to being the most customer focused car company in the country. And, as part of this commitment, we've developed a unique Motability offer. What does this offer include? Well, for the first time, you can now have use of a family sized 3 or 5 door Nexia through Motability Contract Hire at zero initial rental – meaning you don't have to put down a penny to start with.

Or you can buy the Nexia GLi 3 door with no deposit (the monthly payments for both schemes are equal to the higher rate

allowance). In fact, the entire Daewoo range is available through both the Motability hire and hire purchase schemes (the latter making ownership affordable for the first time), so it couldn't be easier. Well actually, it is. You see, Daewoo don't use dealers, but instead sell direct to you through our own showrooms. Daewoo's non-commissioned Customer Advisers have the time to listen to, and understand, the needs of the disabled driver. They can arrange an extended test drive, picking you up at your door if need be. You'll be pleased to know that all this special treatment doesn't stop as soon as you've bought the car. We provide a free Daewoo Motability helpline and courtesy servicing. This means we'll collect and deliver your car for service and leave you with a courtesy car, or, if you'd rather, arrange a two hour quick return service to get your own vehicle back as soon as we can. The special treatment continues when

you're in the driving seat. To protect you there's electronic ABS, an airbag

emergency your car is fully covered by the AA. You've got power steering, a stereo radio cassette and metallic paint. A very desirable package. Which is why the car's protected by an engine immobiliser and security glass etching. All this is standard - we believe we're already offering Motability customers more than anyone before. And we still want to improve. If you have any ideas on what more we can do for disabled drivers and carers. write to Daewoo Motability, Daewoo Cars, FREEPOST (WDB1268), Daewoo House, Homestead Road, For more information on our cars, call our Motability helpline free on 0800 309 903.

and side impact bars. In case of

A car company that goes out of its way for disabled drivers? That'll be the Daewoo.

